

£5m TRANSFER SCOOP

SHOOT!

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ITALY
WORSHIPS
BRADY

Luton Town
TEAM GROUP

The other side of
MARADONA

Ray Clemence on the
League Cup Final
replay

HIS Italian is already more than acceptable. He answers the telephone with complete confidence, and carries on the conversation with remarkable ease in a language which only six months ago he knew just the few words everybody picks up from a restaurant menu — "spaghetti", "ravioli", and no more.

It is a minor, but revealing clue to assess how successful a life Liam Brady is now living in Italy.

The sceptics, the prophets of gloom who came out in scores to knock his decision to leave Arsenal at the end of last season and emigrate to Turin to join Juventus, had obviously not got the slightest idea of what they were talking about.

Liam Brady has never looked back.

With the Italian League entering its final stages, and with Juventus very much in the race, the Republic of Ireland captain is universally accepted as an outstanding talent. Nobody questions his abilities, his vision, his class, as is rather the case with quite a few of the imports now playing in the Italian First Division.

Most of all, it is the way Liam and Juventus got together from the very beginning that still causes amazement and admiration.

One Turin daily, announcing his forthcoming arrival from London last July, came out with the full page headline: "The Old Lady has decided to marry Brady." It could well have added: "They were always meant for each other."

Watching Brady play in his black-and-white striped shirt, one

LIAM AND THE OLD LADY DOING FINE

Franco Causio (below) could soon be replaced by Paolo Rossi at Juventus. Brady in action against Inter Milan (right) at the start of the Juventus revival.



cannot help thinking that he must have been with Juventus for a couple of seasons at least. He fits smoothly in their schemes, and the Bettegas, Causios and Tardellis respond to his directions with the same understanding of a Sunderland or a Stapleton.

Giovanni Trapattoni, the Juventus manager, had Brady at the top of his list when the Italian F.A. decided last year to open the frontiers to one foreign player per club.

"I knew Liam was very, very good," he says. "Now everybody agrees. Some of my assistants were not so sure, they were afraid that the change would prove too much for him, and that he could not cope with the difficulties and the style of Italian football.

"But he has settled down in the best and fastest way possible. He is already, in every sense, one of us."

The Old Lady, as Juventus is known with equal respect to friends and rivals, is not just Italy's most successful side, with 18 Championship titles, six F.A. Cups and a U.E.F.A. Cup to its credit.



| | P | W | D | L | F | A Pts |
|----------|----|----|----|---|----|-------|
| JUVENTUS | 21 | 10 | 9 | 2 | 33 | 12 29 |
| ROMA | 21 | 10 | 9 | 2 | 31 | 17 29 |
| NAPOLI | 20 | 9 | 8 | 3 | 22 | 14 26 |
| INTER | 21 | 9 | 6 | 6 | 24 | 17 24 |
| TORINO | 21 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 23 | 22 21 |
| CAGLIARI | 21 | 5 | 11 | 5 | 18 | 20 21 |

There is, in fact, an aristocratic aura constantly surrounding the club and the players, who are the closest imitation of English college students you can find in Italy.

They have a tradition to follow, they must behave and have style, both on and off the pitch. In a word, they must be different from the typical Latin cliché, "different" meaning "better".

It all comes from the long standing connection between Juventus and the Agnelli family, owners of the Fiat car industry. The Agnellis continue to provide presidents and money, a strong reason for "difference".

Besides, the cold, Northern city of Turin and its inhabitants are much closer in character to Britain than to the sunny, picturesque and noisy sites of Rome or Naples.

Marco Tardelli, the international midfielder who from the start has become Brady's closest friend, underlines this aspect of their partnership.

"One would think that all the Irish are fiery and passionate like southerners, but Liam is the perfect contrast. He is more of an Englishman, cool and rational. It was very easy, for all of us, to get on well with him." Ironically, Tardelli is now a target for Leeds United.

But it was the language of football that immediately drew Liam and his new mates closely together. In the opinion of Dino Zoff, Juventus' and Italy's outstanding keeper: "He is the ideal play-maker, the one we really needed."

And Franco Causio adds: "With Liam we have an extra touch of class."

Edmondo Fabbri, the former manager of Italy's international side and now a well respected football commentator, sums it all up. "Juventus badly needed an all-round playmaker. Brady has immediately had a positive effect

on their play, and the product, match after match, is getting better and better."

"I had thought about going to play abroad for almost two years," Brady explains, "and when the time came I was more prepared and determined than ever. I was ready to face hard times, like Keegan during his first months in Germany.

"This is one of the reasons why my partnership with Juventus has started so well. I was fully aware of what efforts were necessary on my part to cope with a new environment, new people, new language and habits.

"But at Juventus I feel perfect. Everybody is pleasant, my team-mates are really kind to me, there are no problems at all."

But the start of the League season was a difficult one for the Zebras: after the first seven matches, Juventus had only managed one win, having drawn four times and lost twice.

The Italian Press was running daily leading stories on the "crisis" of Juventus. Bettiga and Causio, it was said, were finished, and Brady alone could not change the trend.

"Those were tough days," admits Liam. "The Press was insisting that we did not stand a chance. The mood of my team-mates was understandably low, but I never ceased to be optimistic. I knew that players like Bettiga and the rest can do wonders. It was just a matter of getting into top form."

Exciting

Once more, Brady was right. The eighth match, at home against reigning Champions Inter Milan, resulted in an exciting 2-1 win.

Liam was the hero of the day, opening the score with a penalty, his first League goal in Italy, and saluted as the main force behind the Juventus success.

"From then on," he points out, "we've been playing first class most of the time. Our football is really good, and I reckon we are seriously in for the title."

Liam scored his second goal against Udinese, a fantastic shot from 30 yards.

"A goal which will be long remembered," commented the Juventus chairman, Giampiero Boniperti.

"Contrary to general belief," Brady says, "football in Italy is not so rough as in England. There are less fouls, and man-to-man marking is a game of wits."

He can deal with his markers as cunningly as any top Italian attacker, and is as effective in controlling his opponents when he retreats to help the defenders. His magic left-footed crosses continue to provide easy chances.

Bettiga alone, however, is not enough to exploit them: with Causio's talent fading, there is the need for another top class forward.

Paolo Rossi, recently fully acquitted by the court of justice of the charges concerning the notorious betting scandal, is Juventus' hottest priority.

With him and Brady, The Zebras will be invincible. Everyone in Italy is convinced of it. Most of all, Liam Brady himself.

GIANCARLO GALAVOTTI

SHOOT! view!

MANCHESTER City's stunning progress in the League and F.A. Cup following the dark days before Christmas has obscured a remarkable scheme they are piloting to win the hearts of youngsters.

City have launched a "Street League" of five-a-side teams drawn from young people living in dimly lit suburbs near Maine Road.

The games will be played on newly established kickabout areas run by the City Council.

It is bold, ambitious and designed to enhance community spirit at a worrying time when outlawed organisations up and down the country are spreading a sinister web of disruption in areas where unemployment is rife.

Manchester City's scheme offers youngsters fresh hope at a time when some of their fathers — and mothers — are out of work.

The hope is that City's lead in fostering strong links with their community will be copied by other clubs in the Football League.

Dave Ewing, the former Maine Road star, is organising the League for youngsters aged up to 20.

The City Council in support of the First Division club have offered financial aid to a scheme launched as the "Manchester City Playtop League".

Teams from eight kick-about areas will field three teams at Under-14, Under-16 and Under-20 level.

Priority

Hopefully, players will emerge to make the grade for Manchester City's juniors, though that is not the priority.

A common thread exists between City's scheme and a boy who has been telephoning New Scotland Yard every week since January.

The lad asks: "When's the next five-a-side game, mister?"

His plea is for a repeat of a competition, organised by the Metropolitan Police last year, which became the biggest five-a-side tournament held in the world.

Similar to Manchester City's brainchild, the Met have announced they will run the competition again, sponsored by the Midland Bank and the F.A.

Their contest provides boys, and girls, between the ages of nine and 17, with an opportunity to play football and reach a Final played at the Wembley Arena.

Last year the contest attracted 48,000 youngsters and qualified for an entry in the Guinness Book of Records.

Sir David McNee, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, says: "It is the largest and most successful community relations project we have undertaken."

Football League clubs can dismiss Manchester City's scheme and that of the London police as "small beer". They would do so at their peril if they hope to maintain and improve upon the support they receive, and make a significant contribution to the areas they serve.

SUNDERLAND 'keeper Chris Turner is fed up with the sight of pints of steak, potatoes and vegetables. And liquidised breakfast cereals. He is looking forward to fish and chips more than anything.

"Oh, for some fish and chips," he says.

Since fracturing his jaw in Sunderland's match with Manchester United in January, unlucky Chris has been on a liquid diet.

He said: "It is harder for my wife Debbie than me really because apart from all the trouble she has with my food, she has also got seven-month old Jamie to look after."

JOHN Deehan, the striker W.B.A. signed 18 months ago for £400,000 from Aston Villa, is hoping to get the chance to prove himself for the first time since arriving at the Hawthorns with a long first team run.

In fact since bursting on to the First Division scene with Villa, Deehan has never been a real regular.

He said: "At Villa I was competing with Andy Gray and Brian Little and, at Albion I've been fighting it out with Cyrille Regis, Ally Brown and David Mills.

"Even when I had a 25-game burst I was moved all over the place and never seemed to get a run in one position."

Now Deehan is hoping his partnership with Regis, with Peter Barnes on the wing, works out. "We have been working hard in training and I feel an extended first team run together could help us build a real understanding," he says.



HEADS! LAWRIE WINS



SOME managers have all the luck. Southampton manager Lawrie McMenemy cuddled up to actress Felicity Kendal at a special "Head of the Year" award ceremony.

Lawrie and Felicity won their awards from the National Hairdressers' Federation for possessing superbly groomed heads.

With great respect to Lawrie, one of football's best dressed managers, Alan Biley, Derby's striker, should have run him close for the title.

If readers know of a better groomed head in football than Lawrie's, perhaps they would let me know.

JOCKY'S BENEFIT

DEMAND for tickets exceeded supply at a testimonial dinner for Dundee's popular player-coach Jocky Scott held at Barnhill's Woodland Hotel.

A capacity gathering of 180 sportsmen attended, and the event was voted a huge success.

There was a large contingent of past and present Dens Park players, including Drew Jarvie, of Aberdeen, with whom Jocky won a League Cup medal at Pittodrie in season 1976-77.

Other notable football personalities were top referee Bob Valentine, and Dundee United stalwarts Paul Hegarty and Hamish McAlpine.

The dinner was the first of three major events to be staged in honour of Jocky's benefit year. The next will be a star-studded boxing dinner at Dundee Social Club on April 27. This is to be followed by a specially arranged Sunday testimonial football match at Dens Park, provisionally dated for 3rd May.

Also due a testimonial benefit game soon is Albert Henderson, Britain's longest serving one-club manager until he left Arbroath in January of last year. He had been 17½ years with the Gayfield club.

It is anticipated that the specially arranged match will be a game between an Arbroath Select and Albert's former club Dundee. It is intended that the maroon shirts of Arbroath will be graced by players signed by Albert during his lengthy reign as boss at Gayfield.

Fans 'knifed' Tom English

YOUNG Tom English is back on form and hitting the goal trail with Coventry. Which makes him a pin up with the Highfield Road fans. But they are far from being his favourite people.

For English revealed: "They really had the knife into me. I had personal problems and knew my form was suffering but they didn't help any with the barracking. It came as no surprise when I was dropped.

"I had to make my point to the fans. Their treatment of me was disgusting. You should never kick a player when he is down."

COVENTRY City are preparing to launch plans to brighten soccer for their loyal supporters.

They are imposing a ban on players passing back to the goalkeeper, and will issue instructions to goalkeeper Les Sealey to abandon the three-step rule.

Manager Gordon Milne explains: "As from now, we shall operate both plans in Central League matches at Highfield Road, and hopefully, take the fear and the boredom out of the game.

"If it is a success, and there's no reason to doubt that it will be, I would like to think that we might introduce it in a First Division match before the season ends."

Milne believes fans are frustrated when players pass back. It is "killing" the game, he says.

"At the moment there is nothing in the laws to prevent it, just as there wasn't when Greg Chappell ordered his brother Trevor to bowl under-arm against New Zealand.

COVENTRY PLAN FOR BRIGHTER SOCCER

"Players will have to be trained not to pass back. They will develop more skills, such as dribbling their way out of trouble, getting involved in short passing movements, and always looking forward."

Coventry are instructing their goalkeepers not to dwell on the ball for long periods. Milne is hoping to persuade them to part with the ball within four seconds of receiving it.

"We are conscious of the amount of time goalkeepers dwell on a ball when in possession. They pick it up, roll it, pick it up, roll it, pick it up... and then take their time kicking it."

Coventry's progressive ideas will be used in Central League games — and, hopefully, in the League this season.

BILLY'S PROBLEMS

FORMER Arbroath centre-half Billy Wells has decided to continue his recently interrupted playing career with Clyde.

Twenty-eight years of age, he was granted his release by the Gayfield management a few weeks ago. He had been six years with Arbroath.

Difficulties between the club and the part-time player arose when — because of Billy's employment — he was forced to move to the Stirling area. This created many problems relating to travel arrangements for matches and training sessions.

Their parting of the ways caught the attention of Shawfield boss Craig Brown, who wasted little time in persuading Wells to team-up with Clyde.

BOBBY McDONALD SCOTLAND

MANCHESTER City full-back Bobby McDonald is all set to fulfil an eight-year ambition — to play for his country.

"When I was with Aston Villa I had the call-up to the Scottish Under-23 side, but I had to withdraw because of club commitments. I've never been on the short list since, but now that I've moved to City I think my chances have improved again," says the man who has made such a tremendous impact at Maine Road since his move in October.

McDonald, a part of City's £320,000 package deal with Coventry City which also landed them Tommy Hutchison, admits his game has taken a new lease of life in the north.

"I spent some very enjoyable years with Coventry City, but towards the end

Bertie Mee, Bob Wilson, Alan Dicks, BBC's Grandstand.
Bill McGarry.

They're among the coaches who could be training you on the Pontin's Youth Soccer Coaching Week at Prestatyn from 1 to 8 August.

After a week with these famous men you'll begin to know what it feels like to be a first division player.

While they're showing you how it's done, you could be showing them a thing or two, and if they like what you can do, who knows what could happen?

You'll be trained and coached in every aspect of soccer. And if you've got enough energy there's a programme of quizzes conducted by Tony Gubba of

We're also laying on a whole programme of entertainments including nightly cabaret and dancing, so bring mum and dad (or come with a friend and his mum and dad!).

Accommodation is in self-catering chalets with all the comforts of home including colour television.

Prices, including coaching, start at just £126 plus VAT for three people.

All you have to do to qualify for these coaching weeks is be aged between 10 and 16.

Places go fast for these coaching weeks, so send the coupon today. Or you could end up kicking yourself for a week.

First division coaching begins with this simple move.

To: PONTIN'S HOLIDAYS, Dept. SC,
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Or phone 0202 295533.

Please send further details of the Youth Football Coaching Week.



Name _____

Address _____

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SH4/4

PONTIN'S
YOUTH FOOTBALL COACHING WEEK.

'VE got to admit to feeling more than just slightly envious when I watch the re-run of Graeme Souness' three marvellous goals against CSKA Sofia on my video recorder at home.

That performance, devastating and ruthless, sums up the magic of European football and that's something we have missed at Ibrox this season.

The glamour of European ties is something else altogether, believe me. They really whet your appetite and bring that extra special aura which is good for the players as well as the fans.

These games always provide a great memory of something out of the ordinary. It gives you the opportunity to play against the best players in the world and you can't help picking up a thing or two in that company.

I've faced Johan Cruyff twice when he was at his peak with Ajax. They were the holders of the European Cup at the time and we had just won the Cup-Winners' Cup.

Cruyff and Company played us home and away for the European Super Cup and they beat us 3-1 at Ibrox and 3-2 in Amsterdam.



Despite the defeats I revelled in those games. You know, Cruyff is easily the best player I have ever faced. He was poetry in motion when he got into his stride.

He scored in both those games and I got a good, close up view of his flashing, wonderful skills. I'll always remember his goal at Ibrox when he raced on to a long ball going through the inside-right position.

No danger threatened immediately, but suddenly there was a change of pace, a jink inside, a feint to go wide, another change of direction and suddenly he was left with only Peter McCloy to beat.

I swear he even sold a dummy to all the fans behind that goal, too, with those mesmerising hips of his.

The finishing shot was delivered with unhurried ease of the complete professional and, honestly, you just had to admire his talent.

In Amsterdam, we played better

'RANGERS MISS THE MAGIC OF EUROPE'

and tried to close him down, but that's easier said than done. He scored again with a delightful piece of play that bewildered me.

He had his back to goal wide on the bye-line on the left. I was breathing down his neck, so close, in fact, I could have been wearing the same shirt!

There seemed little or no room for manoeuvre until he whipped the ball over my head with a neat little flick, swept past me all in one breathtaking movement and

whacked an unstoppable shot past big Peter at the near post.

I didn't even bother offering excuses. I had just witnessed something out of the ordinary . . . something only someone blessed with the skills of a Johan Cruyff could produce.

Last season we had a fair run in Europe until Valencia beat us. That was a frustrating experience. We drew 1-1 with them in Spain and their goal was a free-kick by Argentinian World Cup star Mario Kempes.

I recall that shot whipping over the defensive wall and into the top corner of our net. We asked Peter McCloy why he hadn't moved for the shot. With typical honesty Peter exclaimed: "Move for it? I didn't even see it!"

In the second-leg Kempes netted two more goals and Valencia went through and eventually took the trophy, of course, after their penalty-kick shoot-out with Arsenal in the Final.

Impossible

It seems unlikely that we will be competing in the European Cup next season, as the Premier Division title is a practically impossible target for us.

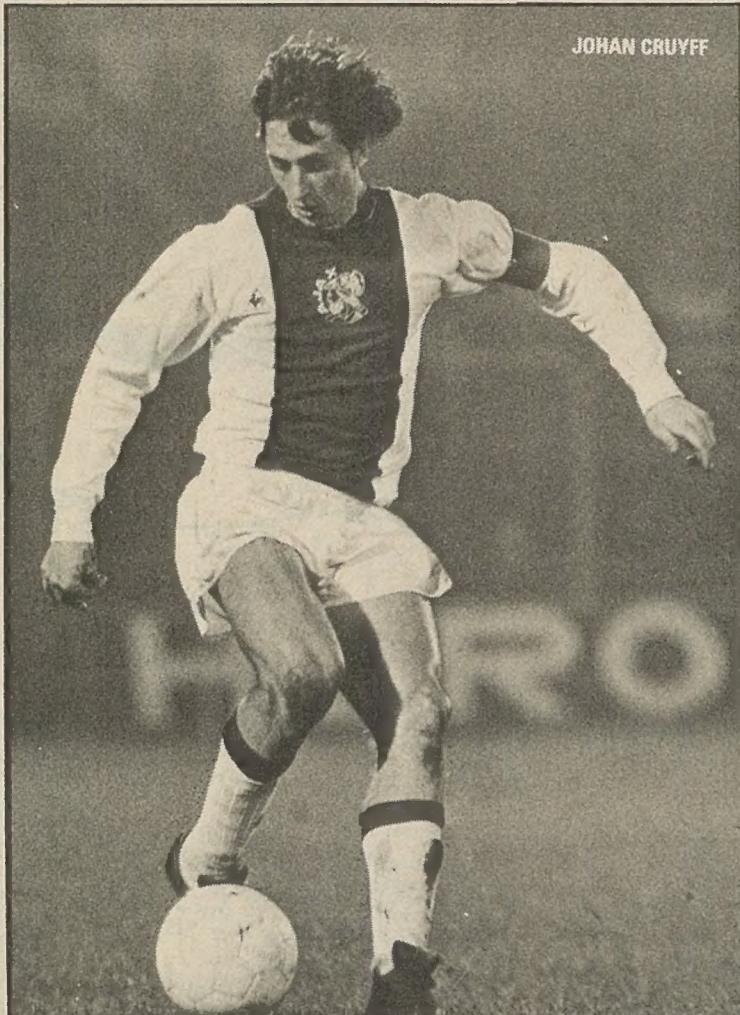
Nevertheless, we should finish high enough to qualify for the UEFA Cup, although we would prefer to have something to show for our efforts at the end of the season.

This means that the Scottish cup must now be our priority, but first we have to overcome Morton.

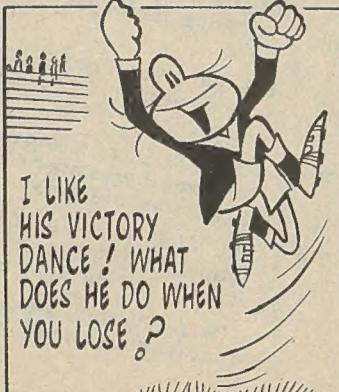
That's all for this week . . . I'll be back in a fortnight when I'll be talking more about our Scottish Cup Semi-Final match at Parkhead on April 11.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Derek Johnstone'.

TARTAN TALK FROM
CELTIC'S DANNY
McGRAIN NEXT WEEK



NOBBY



EXCLUSIVE



LITTLE is known about the background of fabulous Frederick Blanket — the £5 million soccer star who has yet to play his first match for any team at all. Wishing to remedy this lack of reportage, for any team at all Linesman, to the Blanket luxury apartment in Hoxton on April 1st and we now proudly present this exclusive scoop for SHOOT.

THE £5 MILLION

D.L. Well, Fred, it's great to meet you at last, and I'm sure all our readers are as anxious as I am to learn the inside story of your incredibly fantastic career.

F.B. Yeah, well, y'know, man.

D.L. Great, Fred — fabulous. Now, first of all, Fred, let's kick-off with the astounding way in which you hit the world's headlines by breaking through into the star-studded galaxy of all-time greats.

F.B. Yeah, well . . . would you repeat the question, Dave, y'know?

D.L. Sure, Fred, great! How did you get started in the game?

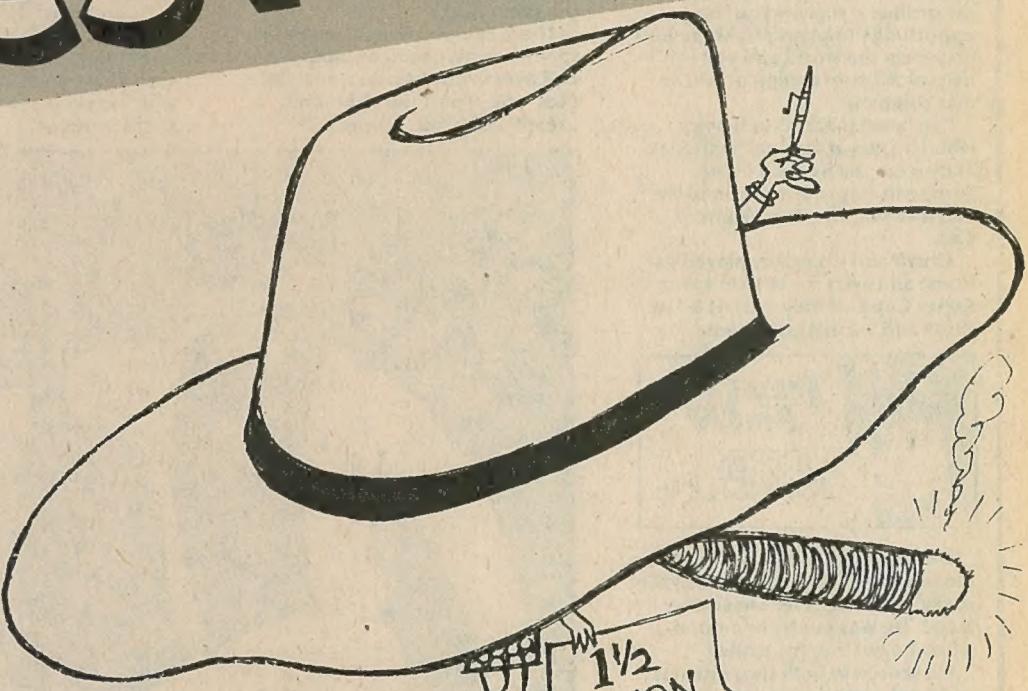
F.B. Game? What game, Dave?

D.L. Soccer, Fred — football. Just tell the readers how it all came about.

F.B. Oh, yeah, y'know, Dave. It all come as a bit of a . . . y'know, man. One morning, it was, I went down to read the electric meter at Maine Road, see, and I were jumping up and down a bit, y'know . . .

D.L. Jogging?

F.B. Is it? All I remember is me jeans was killing me down there in the . . .



D.L. . . . Yes, Fred, great — but what happened next?

F.B. Yeah, well, y'know, Dave, before I could even get me meter pad out I'd been signed on for a million and a half quid!

D.L. Fantastic! Just great, Fred. Who was it signed you on?

F.B. Alice Malcolmson, I fink somebody told me afterwards, like. I dunno, really, Dave. Nice bird and all that, but not my type — smoked big cigars and all that, y'know. Bit butch, if you ask me, man.

D.L. And this brief but lucrative encounter, of course, heralded your fantastic club-interchange — from Maine Road to City Road; from City Road to Highbury; and then, Highbury to Selhurst Park — and with never a ball kicked in anger, let alone practice. Really fantastic! What were your impressions of these great clubs you never actually played for, Fred?

F.B. Yeah, well, y'know, Dave . . . er, would you repeat the question, y'know?

D.L. Sure, Fred, great! Let's put it this way: which of your managers impressed you the most?

F.B. Oh, yeah, well, Dave . . . them two, you know — Brian Taylor and Peter Clough. They really blew my mind, y'know, Dave. A reel freak-out.

D.L. Great, Fred, just great. You mean that they gave you plenty of good advice?

F.B. Yeah, well, y'know, Dave. They had a few words wiv me one day. Well, to be obstinately honest, it was two words; one from Peter Clough and the other from Peter Taylor. But it all made up one sentence, if you get me meaning, Dave.

D.L. Fantastic, Fred — just great! And why do you think they only used two words, Fred?

F.B. Well, Dave, y'know, I fink what it was was it was me hair being a bit on the long side, man.

D.L. Well, it's not exactly what you would describe as short right now, is it Fred! Eh? Ha ha ha ha!

F.B. Yeah, well, Dave, I got free or four feet cut off of it before I got

STAR

FRED BLANKET ON THE MOVE ONCE MORE-

transformed to The Gunners. Me hair useter get mixed up wiv me 'em up and I always had to hobble out the changing room. Personally, I fink that's one of the main reasons why I haven't been able to actually get a kick at a ball yet.

D.L. Fabulous! Just great, Fred! Fantastic! And what about Highbury?

F.B. Who?

D.L. Arsenal, Fred — The Gunners.

F.B. Oh, yeah, Dave. Y'know what, man? They really look after you at that club. That Nellie Dean, he just took one look at me and he says "You're gonna haveter start right from the bottom, Fred me bhoy."

D.L. Fascinating, Fred — absolutely fantastic. What sort of training did he give you, Fred?

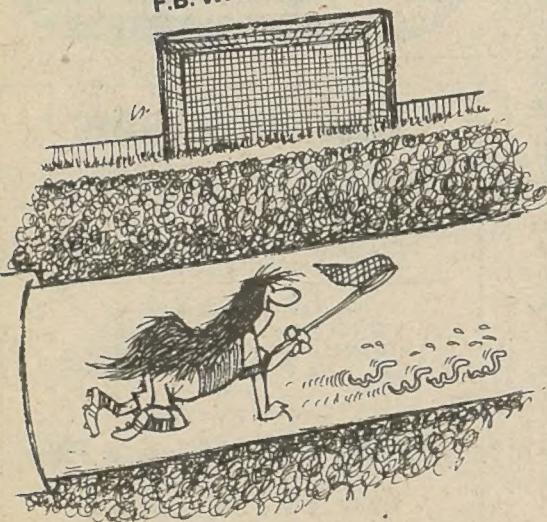
F.B. Well, you see, y'know, Dave; every morning he give me a big bunch of hemlock and he ...

D.L. Hemlock?

F.B. Yeah, y'know, man — that green stuff the Irish wear on Partick Thistle Day. And then he had me crawling through them great pipes in the undersoil heating cistern, brushing out the worms and all that. Really weird, man, but when I'd finished each day, completely knockered, Mister Dean useter pat me on me head and give me a lump of sugar. A reel gentleman, that.

D.L. Fabulous! Absolutely great, Fred! And then you were all set to up £5 million in transfer fees when you moved over to Selhurst Park.

F.B. Where, Dave?



D.L. Crystal Palace, Fred — The Eagles.

F.B. Oh, yeah, Dave. That was a freak-out, y'know, man.

D.L. Great, Fred, simply great. Tell us all about it.

F.B. Yeah, well, Dave, there int too much to tell, reelly, y'know what I mean? That's an awful big car park they've got there to sweep out every day, and I fought I wasn't really getting nowhere — well, y'know anyroad — so I went to see the manager — that Mister Venerable.

D.L. Terry Venables? Great! And what did he have to say, Fred?

F.B. Funny you should ask that, Dave. Mister Venerable used the same words as Peter Clough and Brian Taylor, but there was only one of him, so he could use both words himself. He said he was off to South Africa Road — but I fink he was only pulling me leg. He went off to Queens Park Strangers instead. It's really weird, man — I kept on seeing that Alice bird wiv the big cigars and she tells me I'm gonna be the Chief Coach, and all me mates keep disappearing, and I'm really getting lonely in that car park. There's a new chap knocking around now, though — and he reckons I can cut the grass at Wimbledon if I can sharpen meself up a bit, y'know.

D.L. Fascinating! Great, Fred — just fantastic! And what are you doing now, Fred?

F.B. Yeah, well, y'know Dave — I got one or two irons up me sleeve, as they say. Ha ha! Well, to be obstinately honest it's me agent what's got everyfink fixed up, like, y'know.

D.L. So, you've got an agent, Fred. Great!

F.B. Yeah, well, that Bernie's been real good to me, man. A Tower of gives me ten per cent of everyfink I earn — less tax and his expenses, y'know, Dave. I fink he's going to transform me to one of them European teams. Graveyard and Northfleet, or Fray Bentos, or Russian Luncheon Glad Bag — one of them, anyway, for a few million or so. And I've got this new contract or coming up wiv New York Cosmos.

D.L. Cosmos, surely, Fred?

F.B. Would you repeat the question, please, Dave?

D.L. Great! I mean, Fred, you'll be going to New York Cosmos?

F.B. Will I? Well, all I know is Bernie says it's for advertising them

AERIAL VIEW OF
FRED BLANKET
SWEEPING THE
PALACE CAR PARK

anti-perspex airysols and all that. Then, of course, I got all them speeches what I get paid for: Roguery Clubs, Moronics, and Women's Intuitions. The pences are queueing up.

D.L. Don't you mean 'sponsors', Fred?

F.B. Could be, Dave, y'know. But Bernie calls 'em pences.

D.L. Well, Fred, you certainly have a big schedule.

F.B. You can see it from there, can you? It's these jeans I gotta wear for the pences, Bernie says.

D.L. Well, Fred Blanket — £5 million soccer super star and an object-lesson to us all — many, many thanks for revealing all to our SHOOT readers this week.

F.B. Yeah, well, y'know, Dave — I've just gotta get these jeans fixed. They're crippling me. Sometimes I agony, consecrate on the ecstasy.

D.L. Great, Fred — fantastic!

F.B. It's been a honour and a privet hedge, y'know, Dave. Can I have me money now, or has it gotta go through Bernie?

(Next week, unless the Editor can avoid it, we shall be featuring 83-year-old Mrs Felicia Fowler, who has just been approached to manage a well-known First Division soccer club.

We look into her theory that, in spite of their tantrums and repeated requests for increased pocket money, she feels herself as well-qualified as many others to succeed where so many others have failed. "After all," she told our ace-interviewer, "look at Mrs Thatcher!"

BY ALLAN CAVENDER

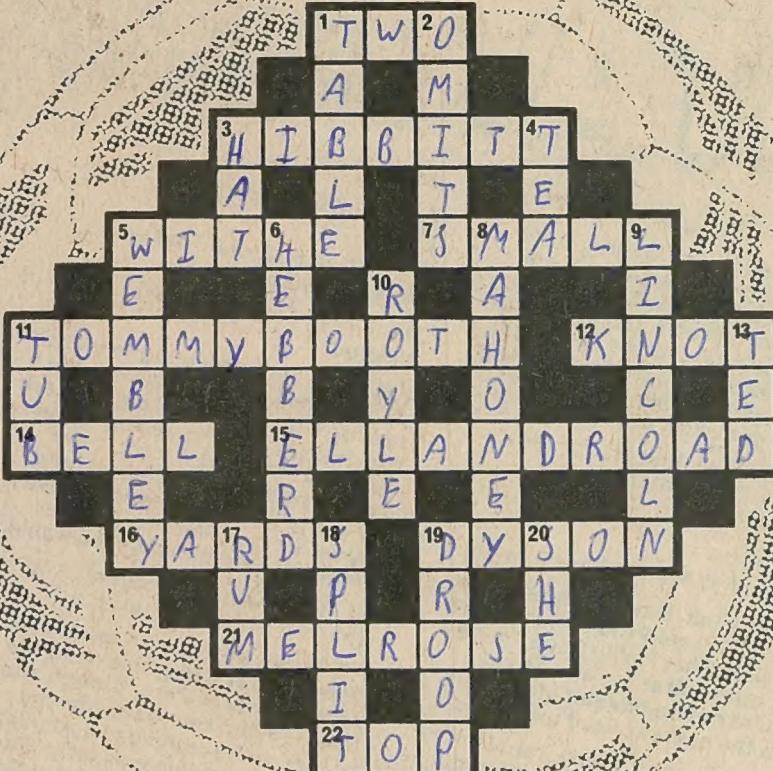
ON THE BALL CROSSWORD

ACROSS:

- Number of clubs in the Scottish Premier Division whose names start with the letter "A". (3)
- Kenny —, Wolves midfield player. (7)
- Peter —, Aston Villa striker. (5)
- Lacking in size. (5)
- Manchester City defender. (5 & 5)
- A frustrating problem, perhaps, in one's boot laces! (4)
- Norman —, Wolves striker. (4)
- Ground of Leeds United. (6 & 4)
- The pitch is measured in them. (5)
- Paul —, Coventry City defender. (5)
- Jim —, Leicester City striker. (7)
- All clubs want to be in this position. (3)

DOWN:

- Achievement list of soccer clubs, for instance. (5)
- Leaves out. (5)
- Bob —ton, Sheff. Utd. striker. (3)
- If Newport gives PER; what does West Ham give? (3)
- Venue of the F.A. Cup Final since 1922/23. (7)
- Trevor —, Southampton midfield player. (7)
- John —, Swansea City midfield player. (7)
- City; The Imps from Sincil Bank. (7)
- Joe —, Norwich City striker. (5)
- Water or flowers container. (3)
- Drake; famous Arsenal player who scored seven goals in a match against Aston Villa on 14th December, 1935. (3)
- If Wigan, Brighton and Dundee give GIN; what do Morton, Scunthorpe and Dumbarton give? (3)
- Hajduk —; famous Yugoslav club. (5)
- Wilt. (5)
- David —arer of Middlesbrough. (3)



ANSWERS ON PAGE 42

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Andy Gray
WRITES
FOR YOU



THE current season is going almost the opposite way to how I thought it would. I certainly didn't expect to see Wolves uncomfortably close to the relegation zone after finishing sixth last season. I knew we wouldn't win the League, but I felt we'd be higher than 16th or 17th.

With our indifferent League form in mind, it comes as something of a surprise to find ourselves in the F.A. Cup Semi-Finals. In the two years since John Barnwell arrived we've played 33 Cup-ties, including nine replays of which we've won eight. I've written in my column previously that Wolves are more geared to Cup success than winning the League, yet exactly why our First Division form has been so indifferent baffles me.

Last season we had an excellent away record — it's now almost a year since we chalked up a victory on an opponents' ground. We've had some magnificent results away from Molineux in the Cup — it's just as well because on only three occasions have we come out of the hat first in domestic competitions!

The Cup is different, however, I can't understand how anyone can say they don't have a different attitude or approach to the Cup, especially the F.A. Cup.

Maybe it's the knowledge that there is no second chance in the Cup that spurs us on . . . perhaps when we play League games at the

'Poor League form baffles me'

back of our minds is the knowledge that we can always make up for a defeat the next week.

In the Cups we've had our share of luck . . . the breaks have gone for us, although in many ways we've made our own luck.

We face Leicester City at Molineux this Saturday and it's an important game for both of us. I've never seriously considered us in danger of relegation, although the threat has been there. But I hold up my hands and admit Leicester have proved me wrong.

Buried

I thought they were dead and buried — and now they stand a reasonable chance of playing First Division football next season.

It's amazing how one result has changed their entire season, virtually. Their surprise win at Liverpool gave them the confidence they needed and since then they've chalked up further notable victories over top clubs.

From a personal point of view I'm

happy with my form. It's been good to head a few goals after scoring just one like this last season.

John Richards and I have been under fire from certain quarters about not scoring enough goals. I don't think the criticism was entirely justified, though.

Wolves aren't a side to score a great deal of goals. We don't have a regular marksman in midfield like John Wark or Glenn Hoddle, and we don't create all that many chances.

We're a workmanlike team; we know our limitations and play within them. Having said that, we may not have as many household names as Spurs, but we won't make it easy for them when we meet at Hillsborough in a couple of weeks.

Something that never bothers me is the thought of injury because quite simply I never think about it. Others may worry, but I don't. It never enters my head that an injury against Leicester could ruin the chance of a lifetime. Although I've had my share of pulls, tears and strains it never occurs to me that

"Willie Carr clears off the line against Aston Villa."

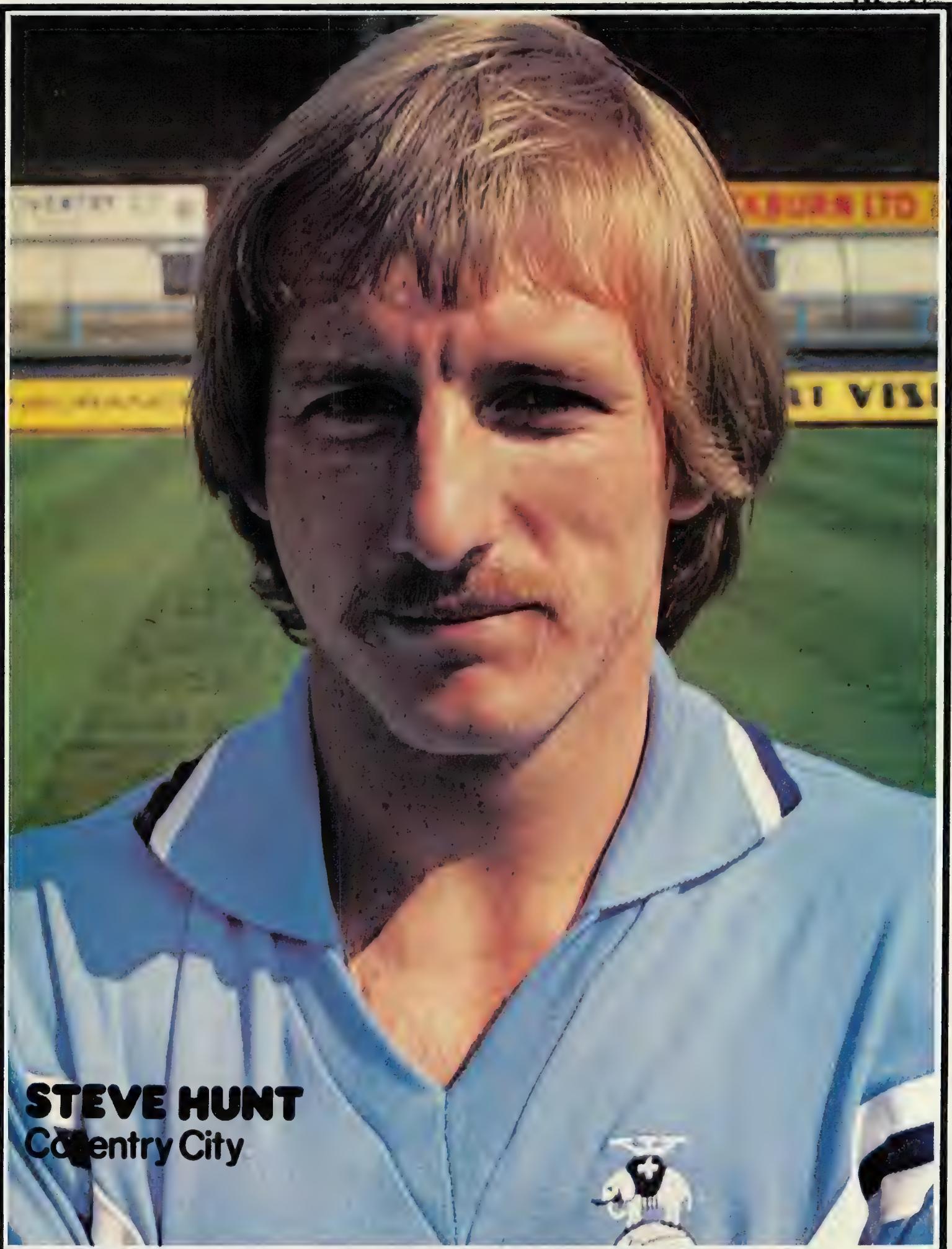
something could go horribly wrong. Start to think like that and sure enough it'll happen.

I'm sorry for Peter Daniel, who broke a leg against Villa the other week. Peter's up and about with the aid of crutches — he doesn't even have his leg in plaster, just a pressure bandage. I know the feeling!

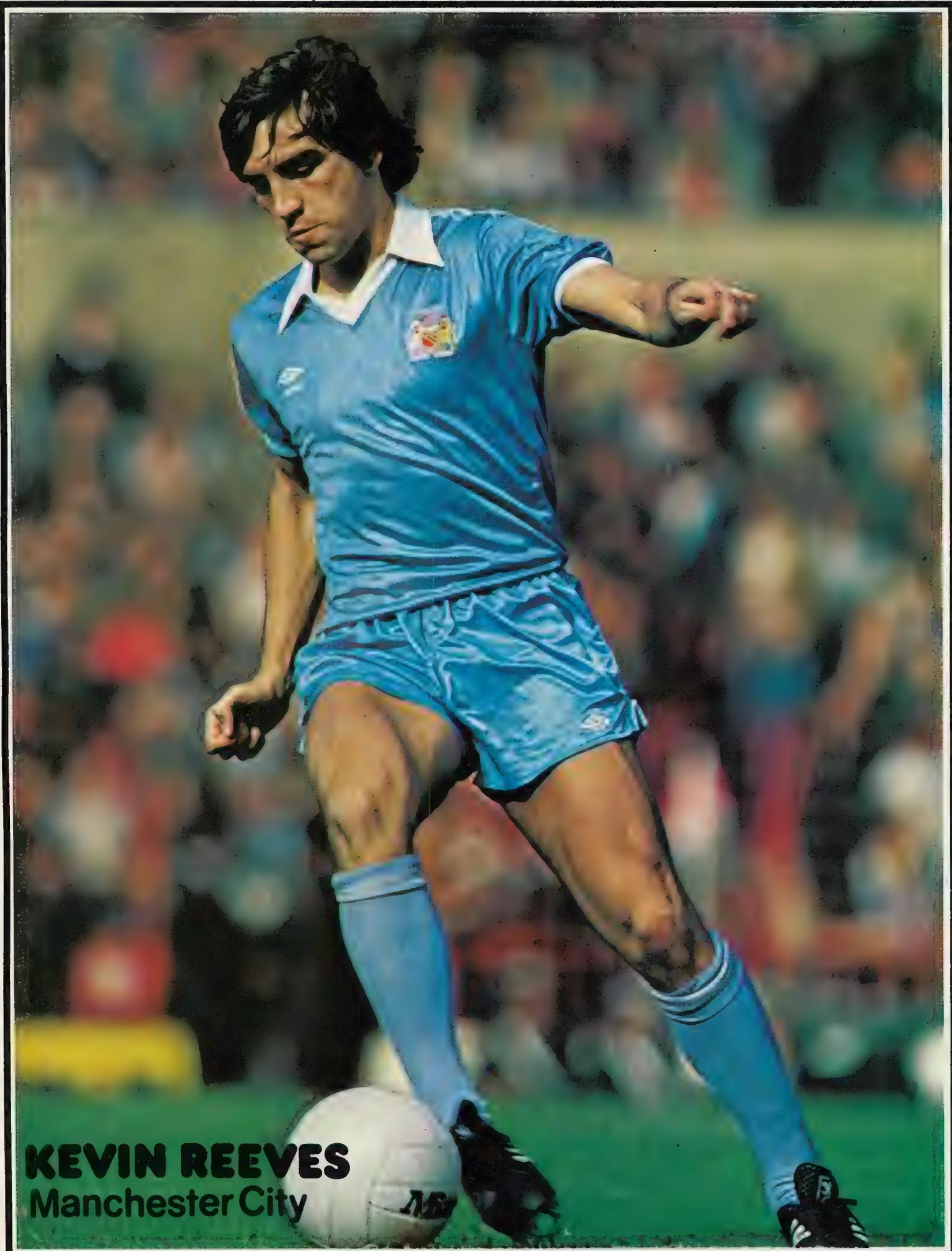
If Leicester's need for points is slightly greater than ours, we are all aware of our responsibilities. In the dressing-room after our Quarter-Final win over Middlesbrough John Barnwell said to us: I'm sorry to break up the party, lads, but we mustn't forget the League."

And he's right, of course. We're all playing for our places and we must forget Spurs and Wembley. Right now all that matters is Leicester City on Saturday.

Join me again in a fortnight.



STEVE HUNT
Coventry City



KEVIN REEVES
Manchester City

JOHN WALKS IT!



TEAM AWARDS

FIRST DIVISION

Peter Shilton (Forest)
Kenny Swain (Aston Villa)
Russell Osman (Ipswich)
Allan Evans (Aston Villa)
Kenny Sansom (Arsenal)
Frans Thijssen (Ipswich)
John Wark (Ipswich)
Graeme Souness (Liverpool)
Paul Mariner (Ipswich)
Kenny Dalglish (Liverpool)
Gary Shaw (Aston Villa)

SECOND DIVISION

Phil Parkes (West Ham)
Ray Stewart (West Ham)
Alvin Martin (West Ham)
Billy Bonds (West Ham)
Ray O'Brien (Notts County)
Trevor Brooking (West Ham)
Tony Currie (Q.P.R.)
Alan Devonshire (West Ham)
Paul Goddard (West Ham)
David Cross (West Ham)
Terry Curran (Sheff Wed)

THIRD DIVISION

Nicky Johns (Charlton)
Malcolm Brown (Huddersfield)
John Breckin (Rotherham)
Ian Evans (Barnsley)
Mike McCarthy (Barnsley)
Ronnie Glavin (Barnsley)
Alan Birch (Chesterfield)
Danny Wilson (Chesterfield)
David Kemp (Plymouth)
Derek Hales (Charlton)
Tony Kellow (Exeter)

FOURTH DIVISION

Mervyn Cawston (Southend)
Cec Podd (Bradford)
Steve Sherlock (Stockport)
Trevor Peake (Lincoln)
Dave Cusack (Southend)
Billy Kellock (Peterborough)
Alan Little (Doncaster)
Anton Otułakowski (Southend)
Robbie Cooke (Peterborough)
Derek Spence (Southend)
Steve Phillips (Northampton)



ABOVE... SHOOT's new columnist Gary Shaw was chosen as Young Player of the Year.

LEFT... The special PFA Merit award went to Swindon's John Trollope, who made a record 770 League appearances for his only club.

THREE minutes from the end of extra-time in Liverpool's League Cup Final with West Ham, Alan Kennedy had me leaping about in ecstasy in my goalmouth when he broke the goal deadlock with a mighty shot past Phil Parkes.

It seemed at last I was set to complete my collection of domestic honours with the one no Liverpool team had yet succeeded in carrying off.

But only minutes later I was on my knees in agony as Hammers' Ray Stewart drove a penalty-kick into the opposite corner of my net.

It signalled the draw that consigns us to playing the Final all over again at Villa Park next Wednesday (April 1st).

Hammers' supporters may be inclined to believe they were robbed of the trophy, because whereas there was no dispute about their penalty award, our goal was dubious due to Sammy Lee lying flat out in an offside position when Alan scored.

Referee Clive Thomas ruled the goal good, as in his opinion Sammy was not interfering with play, and obviously I accept his decision.

Until that moment we had dominated for 80 per cent of the game, but had lacked the penetration that brings goals.

Our goal forced the previously cautious Hammers into staging an all-out assault. A free-kick blasted from the edge of our penalty-area by Ray Stewart brought about one of my best-ever saves when I leapt to my left and palmed the ball around the post.

Unfortunately the resulting corner-kick led to Terry McDermott preventing an Alvin Martin header from going in under our crossbar by making a save with his hands I'd have been proud of.

As Ray Stewart prepared to take the penalty, I recalled that I'd seen him elect to blast the ball in a TV recording of an F.A. Cup Quarter-Final tie against Aston Villa at Upton Park and decided to take a gamble.

Instead he went for a side-footed placement — and I went the wrong way!

It's amazing how importantly penalties have figured recently in our League Cup campaigns.

In 1978 Nottingham Forest took us to a Final replay, and won with a

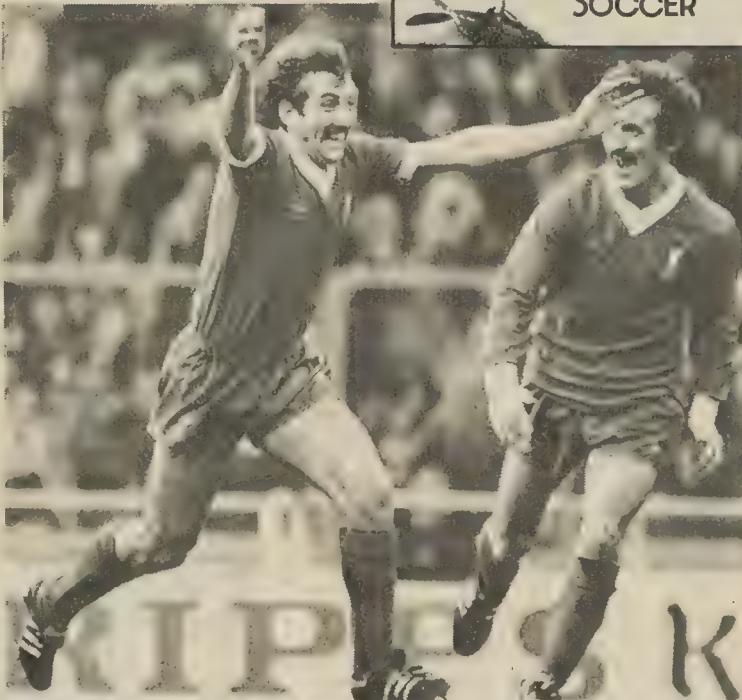
John Robertson penalty — and in the next competition the same spot-kick king knocked us out in the Semi-Finals with conversions in both legs.

Although we're all looking forward to the replay at Villa Park, we know that winning there cannot possibly compare with Wembley for atmosphere and occasion.

There's nothing like climbing up to the Royal Box and collecting the Cup and individual awards and parading in front of fans roaring their heads off.

Many experts predicted we would miss the skill and experience of Phil Thompson, sidelined with a hamstring injury, but I can honestly say

'Alan Kennedy broke the goal deadlock'



'Ecstasy — and agony'

'I gambled — and went the wrong way!'

that his stand-in, Colin Irwin, under pressure as a Wembley debutant and aware of question marks against him, performed as well as anyone in our side. He played to his strengths and did the simple things well.

Our other debut-maker, Sammy Lee, showed no sign of nerves and never stopped running.

So now we're gearing ourselves up for the replay at Villa Park, hoping the game will produce more end-to-end excitement and goals to give the fans value for their money.

At least our supporters won't have to layout as much as it cost to

go to London, a big factor in Merseyside, which has known more prosperous days.

Although West Ham lack recent experience of playing at Villa Park, through being in the Second Division, I can't see it as being a handicap to them.

They're a very adaptable side, and the surface, protected from the elements by a cover during off-match days, will suit their fluent style.

Unless my memory plays me false, Liverpool have never been beaten there in a Cup game since I began playing regularly in the first team.

Although we did draw both our F.A. Cup Semi-Final replays against Arsenal last season, before losing the third at Coventry's Highfield Road.

I'm pleased the League have decided to substitute medals for the traditional winner's tankards, a long overdue change in my opinion. We players receive so many tankards off the field, for making presentations and attending functions, and prefer to commemorate football achievements with medals.

The replay will be hard — and so will the League game at Highbury against Arsenal on the previous Saturday.

The Gunners are still one of the best defensive teams around, conceding few goals, but still need a crack goalscorer to become good all-rounders.

They share a common ambition with us — to finish in the top bracket that ensures a place in the U.E.F.A. Cup competition next season.

We're not taking the League Cup for granted, or winning the European Cup competition, which has three of the Continent's most feared teams left in it.

I'll be previewing the first-leg of our Semi-Final next week.

In the meantime, we hope to be outshooting The Gunners — and bursting West Ham's bubbles.

FAST FLOOD



IN these days of big transfer fees, a move that cost only a paltry £15,000 is hardly likely to rate a mention.

But that's how much Airdrie paid out this season for Sheffield United reserve forward John Flood, and after only one game for his new team the youngster had been voted a hit by the so-critical Broomfield support.

Flood made his debut against Champions Aberdeen in trying circumstances. Airdrie had lost their previous three games, conceded 11 goals and failed to score.

The youngster, though, was buzzing with confidence when he faced up to The Dons, and only two athletic saves from Jim Leighton, brought into Jock Stein's World Cup plans this season, denied him an unforgettable debut.

"I was determined to start with a bang," says Flood. "I wanted to knock in a goal or two. It wasn't to be, but we still got a point in a goalless draw and that wasn't such a bad performance.

"The thought of regular first team football appeals to me and I'm excited about my prospects. Airdrie may not be the most glamorous club in the world, but I was greatly impressed by their manager Bobby Watson.

"It was a bit of a wrench leaving Bramall Lane, but I had to look to the future. This is my big chance and I intend to take it."

Aberdeen left-back Doug Rougvie, in direct opposition to Flood on his debut, must have wondered if Bobby Watson had paid £150,000 to Sheffield United rather than the reported £15,000.

Flood was prepared to take on

Rougvie on the left or right, and his lightning acceleration had the Pittodrie rearguard struggling.

"Yes, I think this boy can do a fine job for the club," says Watson, who must be congratulated for his dealings in the transfer market this term.

"We don't have a lot of money to splash around, so I must be careful about who I buy. Thankfully, John Flood looks like being a bargain."

Watson's spending this season now totals a miserly £50,000... and that has brought in Pat McCluskey (Dumbarton) and George Anderson (Morton) as well as Flood.

Tempted

The Broomfield manager has also resisted attempts by Partick Thistle and Aberdeen to part with captain and striker Sandy Clark. There was talk of St. Mirren offering last season's top scorer Doug Somner PLUS cash for Clark, but again Watson wasn't tempted to part with his hottest property.

There was a hint of former England and Chelsea veteran Peter Bonetti going to Airdrie when regular goalkeeper John Martin had to undergo a cartilage operation, but eventually, Watson got Dundee United reserve John Gardiner on loan.

Things are certainly happening around Broomfield these days. They haven't found life easy in the Premier Division, but the players have mirrored the same spirit as the ambitious Watson and are now an exciting, entertaining outfit.

John Flood is eager to play his part in this new chapter in the Airdrie story.

DUNDEE manager Donald Mackay finally conceded that his team will not be gaining promotion back to the Scottish Premier Division following their recent 4-1 defeat by Motherwell.

The side who made a surprise appearance in this season's Bell's League Cup Final, where they were beaten by Premier Division neighbours Dundee United, have been unable to sustain a consistent League challenge for promotion.

Now the players are threatened with the axe as Mackay promises a massive clear-out of staff at Dens Park when the season finally draws to a close.

"Like every other club we will have to cut costs," says Mackay. "We will have to trim our staff to meet the requirements."

Ignominy

Free transfers are likely to be handed out like confetti when Mackay and his assistant Frank Upton get down to scrutinising the staff that wasn't good enough to guide Dundee to promotion in one go after the ignominy of last season's relegation from the Top Ten.

The Dundee management was desperate that their full-time club would bounce back in one season. Tommy Gemmell quit.

Billy Bremner and Peter Lorimer, the two former Leeds United idols and ex-Scottish international stars, were tipped as front runners for Gemmell's job.

Instead, though, Mackay, a former goalkeeper with Dundee United, returned from Norway to take the post and immediately he stressed that promotion was to be the main target of the club.

There is little doubt that Mackay and Upton have worked long and hard in attempting to rectify the

ills of the Dens Park outfit, but it is going to be another season at least before they can put together a team that is good enough to live with the rigours of the Premier Division.

Last season they astounded everyone by beating Celtic 5-1 in an amazing afternoon at Dens Park last April. Mackay said: "Any team that can score five goals against Celtic must have a lot to offer.

"However, one-off results like that are no good to me. It's consistency that I'm after. That's what wins Championships. We must provide displays like that in every game and not occasionally."

The enigmatic Dundee players again shocked Scottish soccer this season by dumping Champions Aberdeen in the League Cup Quarter-Finals.

Possibly they were sidetracked by the glamour of the knock-out Cup tournament and it diverted their interest from their main aim of promotion.

Mackay might not accept that and, by the same token, he is quite within his rights to point out that reaching the Final of a national tournament must be regarded as some sort of success.

The season is now over for Dundee. They are not in line for any first prizes.

Scottish soccer needs a strong, challenging Dundee. They proved in the 60's they can be a boom side when they had players such as Alan Gilzean, Ian Ure, Andy Pennman and others.

There is now a great onus on Mackay and Frank Upton. They were courageous enough to take over a mammoth task in the first place. That bravery deserves some sort of reward.

Clear-out at Dundee





LEAGUE CUP FINAL REPLAY

Villa Park – Wednesday April 1st.

AMID all the controversy of the goal, the penalty and the after-match confrontation between John Lyall and Clive Thomas, the fact that the 1981 League Cup Final at Wembley was dreadful became lost.

West Ham, who have (with the possible exception of Ipswich) played in more entertaining games than any other club this season, never got going; they managed not one worthwhile shot at goal.

Liverpool, so experienced at the big occasion, were a pale shadow of themselves.

At least both teams have the chance to give the fans some real entertainment now. And

Now, Alan's goal will fade into insignificance.

When West Ham won the F.A. Cup last year it was the head of Trevor Brooking that decided the Final — a header from the man called Hadleigh is rare, indeed.

There are plenty of potential scorers on both sides in all departments. West Ham's Paul Goddard and David Cross have caused havoc in Division Two this season, while the danger of Kenny Dalglish and David Johnson is well-known throughout Europe.

A likely match-winner for West Ham could well be Alan Devonshire who has scored sev-

eral vital Cup goals this season. Devonshire certainly overshadowed Brooking at Wembley.

Don't rule out skipper Billy Bonds, either. He'll be fighting harder than ever to ensure a Hammers victory.

But if Liverpool have the edge it's in midfield, where Graeme Souness, Terry McDermott and Ray Kennedy are regular marksmen.

Liverpool will start the second game as favourites, just as they did the first. The Reds may not quite be The Reds of old, but betting against them in Finals is a sure way to lose money.

As West Ham may find out at Villa Park.



with any luck, a thriller at Villa Park will go a long way towards burying the tedium of Wembley.

Forget the fact that the replay will be on April 1. West Ham and Liverpool won't be fooling around next week; while the setting will make it seem more like a Semi-Final than a Final, both clubs know victory means entry into Europe next season.

It's difficult to know why the Wembley Final was so tedious, except that too often such games have flattered to deceive. Both sides are more than capable of putting on the style.

Perhaps too much is expected of Finalists; perhaps the occasion is becoming too big, even for the best players; perhaps the pressures inhibit those involved; perhaps the fear of losing at Wembley forces even the flair players to adopt a safety-first attitude.

Nothing more or less is at stake at Villa Park, but the entertainment value should be higher.

Classic

It's the third time in five years the League Cup Final's gone to a replay. And both of the previous two have resulted in a classic decider.

In 1977 Everton and Aston Villa fought out a bore-draw at Wembley, drew 1-1 at Hillsborough before Villa triumphed 3-2 in a memorable Old Trafford second replay.

Three years ago Forest and Liverpool also drew 0-0 at Wembley, a match memorable mainly for the superb performance in the Nottingham goal by the unknown Chris Woods.

The Old Trafford replay was again one-way traffic as Liverpool piled on the pressure, but Forest clinched the Cup with John Robertson's penalty after Phil Thompson professionally fouled John O'Hare.

The line-ups should be almost the same as at Wembley, although David Johnson and Phil Thompson could return for Liverpool. Who could be the hero? Finals so often throw up the unlikeliest names.

It was nearly Liverpool's Barney Rubble, better known as Alan Kennedy. His Wembley goal was the first he'd scored with his right foot.



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How two former England defenders are tackling the tough job as managers...

THIRD Division managers started ordering their players to wear shin pads when Norman Hunter took over as manager of Barnsley.

Some of them were so wary of the kind of team he would turn out that it wouldn't have been a surprise to see their teams protected with more padding than America's grid-iron footballers!

It amused Hunter more than anything. He says: "I know people expected me to produce a really tough side. With my reputation, it was only natural."

"But we've proved we can play some good football, and now people are taking us at face value. We may even have given some of

Hunter didn't make that many changes to the Barnsley side after taking over from Clarke. But he's made them almost invincible.

His only defeat during a 23-game spell was 2-1 at West Ham in the League Cup. "We pitted our skills against one of the best sides in the country and we came out favourably."

"Although we lost at West Ham, that game did us the world of good. The players realised they had done well and it gave them more confidence for League games."

Clarke and Hunter are two managers to emerge from the Revie era at Leeds. There's also Billy Bremner, Terry Cooper, Johnny



Clough will help Wigan

Protection for Barnsley

them a pleasant surprise."

Ironically, it was Hunter's predecessor Allan Clarke — a skilful player in his Leeds playing days — who preaches defensive doctrines. And Hunter — the iron man of the Leeds side in Don Revie's days — who says: "I want my team to go forward. To be adventurous.

"Allan and I have been mates for a long time but we are completely different people and we both have different ideas on the game.

"We'll never see eye to eye about the way the game should be approached. Allan will continue to do things his way, and I'll do them mine. That's how it should be."

Giles and Peter Lorimer in America.

Says Hunter: "There are more to come as well. Eddie Gray, I'm sure will go into management when he finishes playing. And so will Terry Yorath.

"Having played under a man like Don Revie, it's only natural to me that so many of us should go on to be managers. He didn't groom us for the job, but we were bound to pick up a lot of good points from him.

"I don't listen to all those things that people say about Don Revie. He never did any wrong as far as I was concerned and he was a great manager.

"I don't think any of the lads try to manage exactly like him. But you pick up good habits as far as running a club goes and that's a big advantage."

"We've got most things we want here. It's a marvellous little club and I hope we can now give

LARRY Lloyd, the burly central defender whose uncompromising efficiency in the Nottingham Forest rearguard last season won him his fourth England cap after an eight-year absence from the international scene, has quit the glamour and the headlines of the First Division to become player / manager of Fourth Division Wigan.

While admitting that last season was probably his most memorable, Lloyd didn't deny that his first team future had looked decidedly precarious this term.

"I'd been in and out of the side, mostly due to injury and my failure to maintain the consistently high standard I reached last season.

"If I had no part to play in the first team plans, then I had to seriously consider moving elsewhere.

"I'd had talks with Brian Clough and Peter Taylor about my future, and I'd made it clear that I didn't want to end my playing career in Forest's reserve side.

"I had to be honest and realise that they weren't going to build Forest's future around 32-year-old Larry Lloyd.

"Brian and Peter both knew of my desire to stay in the game as a manager, and I'm delighted that they've given me the chance to fulfil that ambition with Wigan.

"What has made this opportunity even more attractive is that I'll be filling the dual role of player / manager.

"I feel that I can carry on playing and I know that what I've learned as a player with Bristol Rovers, Liverpool, Coventry and Forest will be an asset to me, and hopefully, to Wigan.

During his four-and-a-half-year stay at the City Ground, the big fellow didn't always conform to

the Clough pattern, but no one could ever question the sincerity of his admiration for the achievements of the Clough/Taylor partnership.

"You don't play for managers like Brian and Peter without finding out some of the things that have made them so outstanding at

LARRY LLOYD

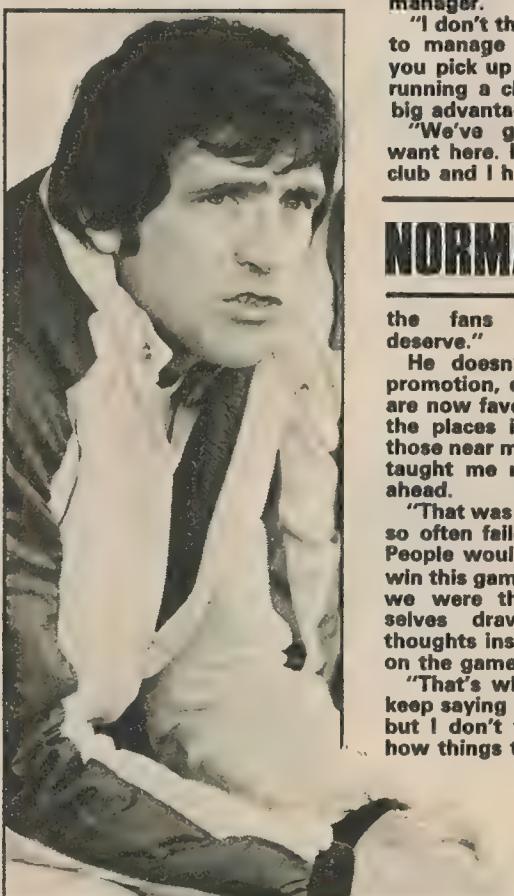
their job. What I learned from both of them will, I'm sure, prove invaluable to me at Wigan."

Lloyd, a fully qualified F.A. coach, has no delusions about the problems that lurk on the managers treadmill.

"Having a coaching qualification probably won't make all that much of an impression at Wigan, but I believe that the knowledge I've gained from all my former managers and the fact I'm young enough, and still playing well enough to hold my own in the First Division, could be beneficial.

"I know that there's a lot more to managing a football team than coaching and picking the side, and I'm eager to learn all the different aspects of the job.

"I hope to play and manage for a season or two, and then concentrate wholly on management. I've been impressed with the enthusiasm and ambition of the Wigan board, and I'm determined to make the most of this chance."



NORMAN HUNTER

the fans the success they deserve."

He doesn't like talking about promotion, even though Barnsley are now favourites to take one of the places in Division Two. "All those near misses we had at Leeds taught me never to look too far ahead.

"That was one of the reasons we so often failed at the last hurdle. People would say we only had to win this game, then that game and we were there. We'd find ourselves drawn into the same thoughts instead of concentrating on the game in hand.

"That's what I do here. People keep saying 'you're up, you're up,' but I don't think so. I'll just see how things turn out."

'I want to be as good as Shilton' says JAN MOLLER



Moller, 27, was delighted with the warm reception he found in the West Country. His pretty wife Suzanne and 14-month-old son Niklas were made to feel just as welcome.

"The other players have been so good to me," he says, his eyes alight with genuine feeling. "I was worried. I thought they might not help a stranger."

"But they are very fair. My English is not as good as it should be. I haven't spoken it since I was at school. I am very disappointed with myself at times when I find it hard to think of the right word. But if there is something I do not understand then I ask, and someone always takes time to explain."

Moller's idol in English soccer is the man who played opposite him in that European Final, Nottingham Forest's Peter Shilton. "He has great qualities in his play. So determined and sure of what he does. I want to learn to be that good. I have time. I am only 27. The best goalkeepers are over 30."

Certainly Houghton is in no doubt that Moller can have the time to develop his game. "I bought Jan because I knew what he could do. He never let me down at Malmö, and I'm sure I can rely on him again."

Meanwhile there's only one thing Moller is unhappy about — City's position dangerously near the bottom of the Second Division.

"That is not good," he shakes his head. "I want to play in the First Division. It is the best in the world. I hope I can make enough good saves to get Bristol City into it."



Bob Houghton

JAN Moller got a taste of the big time when he played in goal for Swedish part-timers Malmö in the 1979 European Cup Final against Nottingham Forest. It made him hungry for more.

Now Moller has left Malmö, left his job as a bank clerk, and come to England to satisfy that hunger.

The man who brought him here was Bob Houghton, manager of that Malmö side, and now boss of Second Division Bristol City. And when Houghton called, it didn't take Moller long to decide about moving.

"It was my dream to be a professional in England," explains the 6ft 4in giant. "It is so difficult for a goalkeeper, because every English club has two or three good 'keepers. They don't want to spend much money on another. I knew I had this one chance, and I had to take it."

Right decision

City were, in fact, willing to spend nearly £100,000 on Moller, and he's already made them feel it was money well spent. And he hasn't taken long to decide he made the right decision to come, as well.

"There's such a difference in the football," he says, in almost perfect English, his accent sounding more like Oxford than Stockholm. "Both in training and in matches."

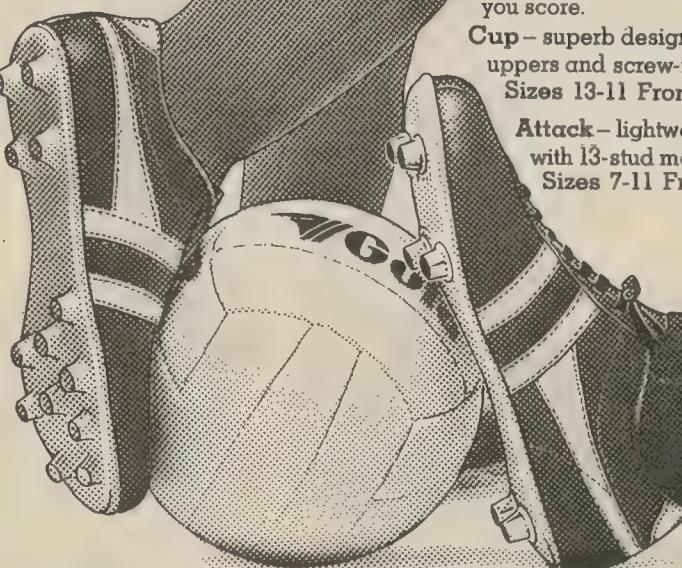
"The quality of skills is so much higher. Here, there are 22 professionals on the pitch. It's not so in Sweden, where most of the players work part-time."

"I have found that when the ball is in the penalty-area I must expect something to happen, somebody to try to shoot."

Moller began his English career by keeping two clean sheets, and Houghton was sweating on a promise of a Rolls-Royce if he could last the season without letting a goal in. The record was dented, of all things, by an own-goal, a header from centre-half Julian Marshall.

"That was my fault," Moller honestly admits. "I called for the ball too late. I didn't realise he was going for the cross. We have talked about it to try to make sure it doesn't happen again."

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Never go without your Gola's

THE career of Bosco Jankovic is at the crossroads. His contract with Middlesbrough ends this season, and in May he must decide whether to stay in this country or return to his native Yugoslavia.

And his final decision will be made with the precision of a qualified lawyer — which he is.

Bosco will analyse his problem and deal with it, as he has done with other difficulties which have cropped up from time to time during his spell in England.

He says: "If Middlesbrough wish to keep me I may stay here for another two years and then retire, when I would be 32.

"I am a loyal club man, and was

ten years with my last team. Zeljepic — I was consistent with them, and with Boro I've tried to prove that I can play well, week after week.

"Last season, I wasn't happy with my form. I played just 23 League and Cup games, and although I think I showed the club and the fans that I could play, I wanted to do it more often. I was annoyed with myself on occasions, and had no complaints when I was dropped."

Following the ups and downs of last season, Jankovic was all the more determined to succeed this season.

"I wanted to convince our man-

ager, John Neal, that I was worth a regular first team place. But after attempting to produce a standard of football that would keep me in the side I was unlucky with injuries. I was out for two months with knee ligament and Achilles tendon trouble before returning in January.

"Since then, I've been aiming to recapture my top form after the lay-off. It takes a few matches to do this, especially in English football, which is played at a faster pace than in Yugoslavia, but I've adjusted to it.

"I've also noticed that the fans in the Football League give more praise to goalscorers than they do

"He is the forward I admire most in the First Division, and the two English grounds which gave me a thrill to play on were Anfield and Old Trafford — it was an incredible experience to hear the noise and absorb the atmosphere in my away games against Liverpool and Manchester United. In my opinion Liverpool are still the best team in Europe."

Along with Bosco's admiration for Liverpool goes the wish to help his own club win a place in Europe.

"Middlesbrough are a good side, with a fine home record. But we've been let down by our poor away form, and this point was proved when we were knocked out of the

The decision Bosco dreads



Kenny Dalglish (right), whom Jankovic reckons to be the best striker in Britain.

back home.

"In Yugoslavia, a player who helps to create a goal is given his full share of credit — in England the cheers go to the man who actually puts the ball in the back of the net.

"Scoring can be spectacular, but while admitting this, Yugoslavs enjoy watching a player who can scheme and carve out chances.

"A British player who makes opportunities for others and can also score goals regularly is Kenny Dalglish.

F.A. Cup Quarter-Finals by Wolves in a replay at Molineux.

"Nothing would please me more than to get goals consistently between now and the end of the season. I've always played up front, apart from a few matches in midfield, and an attacking role is the one that suits me best.

"And whichever way my career turns at Middlesbrough within the next month or two, my ambition is that the fans will see me at my best in the remaining games. That part is up to me."



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SCOTLAND'S KEEPERS ON THE ATTACK



THEY have been cruelly labelled joke figures, the unprotected individuals set up to be knocked down by so-called experts. But Scotland's goalkeepers are slamming back in the best possible fashion . . . with consistent displays that are making life extremely tough for Scottish strikers.

The spotlight is turned on Scotland's much-maligned goalkeepers. Setting the ball rolling, is international star Alan Rough, who has regained his self-respect this season at club and country level.

"I've never hit back at the criticism I have had," he says. "I've made mistakes and admitted to them. People have had their say and that's all part and parcel of the game."

"It used to annoy me, but not any more. I know what I can do and I want to continue improving."

"People were saying nice things about me after Scotland's 1-0 World Cup victory over Israel in Tel Aviv, but I didn't think I was particularly outstanding."

"If I had been playing for Thistle no one would have noticed!"

Dundee United's Hamish McAlpine has also

been quite superb this season. His consistency is astonishing, especially when you consider United had the best record in the Premier Division last season and still only finished fourth.

In 36 games McAlpine conceded only 30 goals, and he has kept that Scrooge-like outlook this season.

"Goalkeepers undoubtedly get better with age," he says. "I know that is hardly a new theory, but it is accurate."

"You tend to read the game better, take fewer risks and your anticipation becomes sharper. You learn by your mistakes in this business, believe me!"

This has hardly been a memorable season for Kilmarnock or goalkeeper Alan McCulloch, so sorely missed by the team when he was out for a lengthy spell with a broken ankle.

McCulloch had just forced his way into manager Jock Stein's international pool the previous close season and was ready to win his first full cap in either of the friendlies against Poland or Hungary. He was injured in training and had to pass up that golden opportunity.

"It was a blow," he says, "but I was determined to overcome it and prove to Mr Stein what I could do for my country."

'Frustrating'

"The start of the season couldn't come quick enough for me and then I got that injury in the game against Morton. It was most frustrating having to sit things out while my team-mates were in action every week."

"It's great to be back now, my form is picking up, I'm getting rid of some of the rust and I hope to take it from here."

Ironically, Aberdeen's Jim Leighton has now moved into Jock Stein's thoughts at the expense of McCulloch. Stein introduced him to the World Cup pool as number three goalkeeper to Alan Rough and St Mirren's Billy Thomson for the match against Israel in Tel Aviv.

Bobby Clark, Aberdeen's regular choice last season, has watched Leighton's progress closely and says: "I'm certain he will go right to the top."

Morton's Roy Baines has seen plenty of action with Hibs, Morton, Celtic and Morton again in a chequered career, and he says: "I don't think I've played better than I am at the moment."

"Who says life begins at 40? For a goalkeeper that should be 30. That's when everything comes together."

Pat Bonner, Celtic's young Irishman, has a bit to go yet before he reaches 30, but he, too, is enjoying his game at the moment and has grown in stature in recent months.

Celtic's future is in safe hands so long as Bonner is around. His confidence was also boosted when he made his international debut for the Eire Under-21 side against England.

Another 'keeper who has played some exciting stuff this season is St Mirren's Billy Thomson, now the firm number two choice in the international arena to his former Partick Thistle colleague Alan Rough.

He is rated so highly by St Mirren that they told an interested Crystal Palace earlier in the season to start the bidding at £750,000 if they wanted to buy him.

Imagine a Scottish goalkeeper being the most expensive in the world. Now that really would be a turn around!

LEFT: Morton goalkeeper Roy Baines.

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This week's star letter comes from John MacKay of Hillington, Glasgow, who wins our Special Prize of £10: He writes

FIFA MUST TIGHTEN RULING

★ In recent years the methods used to permit players to play for international teams have become farcical. We now have situations in which players qualify to play for national sides by virtue of the fact that their great-grandparents came from the country!

Craig Johnston (right) of Middlesbrough actually had the opportunity to play for Scotland, England, Wales, Northern Ireland, Eire, South Africa or Australia; George Berry of Wolves could have played for any of the home nations or West Germany, five nations in all!

I am not attacking these players, if they have the chance then the best of luck to them, but I am appealing against the system that allows the situations to arise.

Surely some kind of ruling should be brought into practice, that sets down, quite categorically, what does or does not qualify a player to play for a national team.

Otherwise we might in the long run end with players pulling on national jerseys for countries with which their connections are limited to the fact that they holidayed there!

Only the Republic of Ireland seems to be taking full advantage of the ruling — and taking it to the extreme. Personally, I think it should be kept to just the parents — not if you happen to own an Irish Setter.

Law for United

AFTER reading Denis Law's verdict of Manchester United I would love to see Denis take over from Dave Sexton.

JACKIE JORDAN, MOSTRIM.

• I think Denis is quite happy to watch United.



Chelsea dilemma

COULD anybody please tell me what has happened to Chelsea? Their recent form has been really awful. They have a good squad but have dropped from third position to seventh.

I know there are several other good teams at the top of the Second Division, like Sheffield Wednesday, Blackburn, Derby, Grimsby and others, but I thought that Chelsea would learn their lesson from last season when they missed promotion on goal difference with Birmingham.

They have a super goalkeeper, the entertaining Peter Borota, and Clive Walker (below, left), Alan Mayes, Colin Lee, etc., are all natural goalscorers, but where are the goals?

JOHN HARRISON, NETHER EDGE.

• Chelsea haven't had a settled side all season for one reason or another. The consistent teams are the ones which keep the same line-up.

Leave Sexton alone

AFTER reading N. Bonner's letter in the March 14th issue, I feel I have to express my views on the "dire situation" at Manchester United.

First, let me state that I don't accept Mr. Bonner's view that Dave Sexton is a "complete failure". The man is a superb manager. He has taken Manchester United to an F.A. Cup Final, achieved runners-up position last season, therefore qualifying them for Europe and completed several excellent signings.

He has done extremely well considering the injury problems the team has had this season and he is as concerned as anyone that the team does well. In my opinion, he has done as much as he can. Let's face it, he can only go so far, the rest is up to the players.

Also, I would like to suggest to Mr. Bonner and all others who share his opinions: FORGET THE PAST! United have done great things, but no club can maintain that high a standard every

year. It makes me angry that so-called fans always refer to the "glory days" when they want to moan about something.

As for Dave Sexton's "retiring nature" being "disastrous" for the club, when, I would like to know, has a manager been picked for his personality? Has every manager's make-up got to include a big mouth and larger-than-life persona?

I can think of at least one manager who fits that description, but has had a disastrous track record in recent times. Personally, I would opt for a quiet man who gets on with his job to the best of his ability.

So for goodness sake Mr. Bonner (and all others like him), give Sexton a break. I'll wait till United are facing relegation before I start grumbling. Until then, I'll remain optimistic for United under Sexton's guidance.

S. HARRIS, CORBY.

• United have been hit by injuries; players have been off form; but most of all I think that the Old Trafford fans have been disappointed with Sexton's dealings in the transfer market. Sexton is aware that he's judged by higher standards than he was at Chelsea and Q.P.R. and that he must give the United fans what they've come to expect.

Why go to games?

THE reason that football has lost its attraction for so many people was clearly demonstrated in the Everton v. Manchester City Cup-tie.

When it gets to the stage when so-called fans throw bottles and coins at some of the most respected players in the game, ruining it for both the players and the fans, how can decent people be expected to turn up and support their team?

While these mindless morons rule the terraces, there is no way clubs can hope for people to pay up to ten pounds (including travelling costs) to risk life and limb, when they know they can watch football safely in their own homes for nothing!

Until the terraces are safe again attendances will continue to drop — and that's a fact.

ALISTAIR JANUSCH, WINDSOR.

• A handful of hotheads amongst 50,000 decent fans almost spoiled the day. It's the same old story of a minority ruining it for the majority.

Anthem jeers

YOUR snide reply to Jamie Bell in the March 14th issue was surely unworthy of you. It was, however, pretty typical of your attitude on matters of this nature.

I have the feeling that Jamie is a young man who was putting forward what to him was a serious viewpoint, and he was not trying to blame the poor away record of Scotland on the fact that they were unable to play their own anthem, no more was he implying that in spite of not having our own anthem we qualified for the two previous World Cups, an achievement that some countries (who are meant to be better) could not achieve.

Jamie was expressing a point of view held by many Scottish supporters and we would like to have any of the three songs he mentioned adopted as our national anthem.

God Save the Queen is the anthem of Great Britain, if the authorities wish to obviate the whistling and jeering that takes place before these big games, then all they have to do is give the Scottish team their own national anthem.

DAVE MONCUR, EDINBURGH.

• Scotland is part of Great Britain and the anthem should be respected. This goes for the England fans who abuse it at Wembley, too. Why do we have to have the only supporters in the world who don't seem patriotic when it comes to the national anthem?



Send your letters to: Ask the Expert, SHOOT! King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS. U.K. readers receive £2 for every letter published. Overseas readers receive a special SHOOT T-shirt. When writing, please state size: small, medium or large. While every letter is read, our Expert regrets he cannot reply to individual letters personally.

Replays

Which F.A. Cup-tie has needed the most replays?

CHRISTOPHER GRIFFITHS, CLEVELAND.

• As far as I can trace, Christopher, it's five — that's six meetings in all — for a Fourth Qualifying Round tie between Alvechurch and Oxford City in 1971-72. The total playing-time totted-up to exactly 11 hours.

Record playing-time in the competition proper is nine hours and 22 minutes in a Third Round tie between Bury and Stoke in 1954-55.

Including one replay abandoned through bad weather eight minutes from the end of extra-time, the clubs met five times.

That same season, in the next round, Doncaster Rovers and Aston Villa also met five times — with a total playing-time of nine hours — as did Chelsea and Burnley the following year.

Jeff Hall

Can you tell me more about the sad death of England international Jeff Hall, as his relations are near to me?

DOMINIC VINZENZI, BRADFORD.

• Jeff was suddenly taken ill with polio in late March, 1959. Dominic — and died, at the age of 29, on 4th April.

Birmingham's next few games were postponed, and his team-mates isolated under medical observation, but happily no others contracted the illness.

Hall's tragic death has an ironic twist to it. All his 17 full internationals for England had been in a successful full-back partnership with Manchester United's Roger Byrne — who had also died in his prime, barely a year earlier, in the Munich air disaster of 6th February, 1958.

SHORT PASSES

• Southampton's line-up in the 1-0 1976 F.A. Cup Final victory over Manchester United was — Turner, Rodrigues, Peach, Holmes, Blyth, Gilchrist, Steele, Channon, Osgood, Stokes, McCallion.

(THOMAS MATHEIS, West Germany)

• Current TV soccer presenter Ian St. John gained 21 full caps for Scotland — the first seven while with Motherwell, the rest with Liverpool.

(GERALDINE BARRETT, Eire)

• Paul Mariner joined Ipswich from Plymouth for £220,000 in October, 1976.

(LINDA BIRD BOWES, London, E3)

Short Passes are replies to readers' letters.

TOTTENHAM captain Steve Perryman is the first to admit that he wasn't exactly overjoyed at the switch which restored him to midfield from sweeper this season.

"At first it started out as a stop-gap measure while our usual midfield anchor-man, Terry Yorath, was in and out of the side with a niggling injury," recalls Steve.

"Keith Burkinshaw felt we had to have an anchor-man to act as the foil to our three other midfield men, Glenn Hoddle, Ossie Ardiles and Ricky Villa, who are all very much attacking players."

"There didn't appear to be anyone else at the club who was ready to fit the bill, so obviously I agreed."

"But gradually, as Terry's prob-

Not ready to be pensioned off yet.

"But it does take it out of you. There seems to be so much more ground to cover in a game, what with supporting the attack one minute, and supplementing the defence the next."

"As a sweeper, I found my game was based more around concentration. Watching what was going on in front of me all the time. Trying to work out where the danger was going to come from next, and getting into positions to stop trouble before it got started."

As Steve explained, he's prepared to continue in midfield for

just as long as his manager thinks it necessary. But should the club unearth someone else to take over his role in the middle of the park, then he'd jump at the chance to move back into defence. The injury to John Lacy gave Perryman the opportunity to revert to his former role, but Steve fancies his chances at right-back.

"I happen to believe that in modern-day football, full-back is becoming more of a play-making position. With the lack of wingers around, a full-back is in an ideal position to take the ball from his 'keeper, move forward into space,

and set something creative in motion."

"You've only got to look at our top sides and see how often they use their full-backs to start moves to see what I mean."

"With the defensive qualities I've picked up in recent years, and my attacking know-how from midfield, I feel I could make a worthwhile contribution to the team."

At present, of course, it's highly unlikely that Keith Burkinshaw will want to change the invaluable contribution Perryman is making to what many observers feel is the best Spurs side for years.

"We've had a number of talented individuals at this club for several years now," said Steve. "But somehow, as a team, we've never seemed to do ourselves justice."

'Reason'

"But that has changed this season — particularly since Christmas. And the main reason for this is because at long last everyone is playing for each other."

"Just as I've had to give in to the needs of the team, others have had to set aside what they want to do."

"In defence, for instance, we once needed a world class back four playing behind our lads to have any hope of keeping a blank score-sheet. So we were always bound to concede goals. Now, with everyone working hard and dropping back when necessary, we have improved considerably."

"That doesn't mean we've sacrificed any of our attacking flair, as anyone who has seen us lately will testify. It's just that now we make it work for us where it's likely to do the most damage; in the opponent's third of the field."

"We're getting the best of both worlds from the players, and as a result, we're hoping to get the best of Tottenham Hotspur into the bargain."

'I was selfish' ADMITS STEVE PERRYMAN

lems mounted, I seemed to be filling in for him more and more. And eventually, when the club decided to let him go, the boss suggested I should take over the position on a permanent basis.

"To be honest, my first reaction was a negative one. I'd really enjoyed playing as sweeper over the last couple of seasons. I felt it had added a whole new dimension to my game, and that obviously I was a better player for it.

"But the more I thought about it, the more I came to the conclusion that perhaps I was being selfish. As skipper, it's my duty to do what is best for my team, and the boss felt I'd be doing just that by moving back into midfield. So I agreed. And I've enjoyed myself.

'Opposition'

"Midfield is still the most congested area on the pitch," Steve went on. "The opposition is out to deny you time and space whenever they can."

"Performing at the back as a sweeper I'd got used to having more time to play the ball, so I had to adjust my game in that respect. But I have been able to put to good use the knowledge I picked up of the kind of balls defenders don't like."

"I know just what my defenders and I least liked when I was at the back. So now it's just those kind of passes and moves I try to set up."

Generally speaking, as players get older, they often find themselves moving back into defence from more forward positions, where the demands on stamina are less. Yet here is Perryman, moving in the opposite direction.

"I know it seems as if I've been around White Hart Lane a lifetime, but I did start young," said Steve with a smile. "I am still only 29.



Osvaldo Ardiles needs a more defensive-minded midfield partner to compensate for his attacking tendencies.

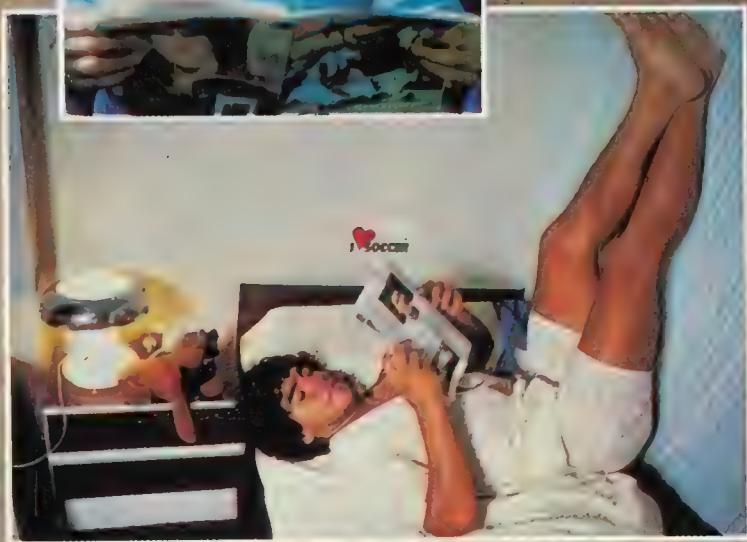


MARADONA-

THE incredible transfer of Diego Maradona from Argentinos Juniors to Boca Juniors set the soccer world alight, but here is the other side of the Argentine superstar . . . the side you so rarely see.



the 4 million dollar man



MAIN PICTURE . . . Diego is never far from a ball, even on holiday, where he can't resist a game of beach-football with his brothers.

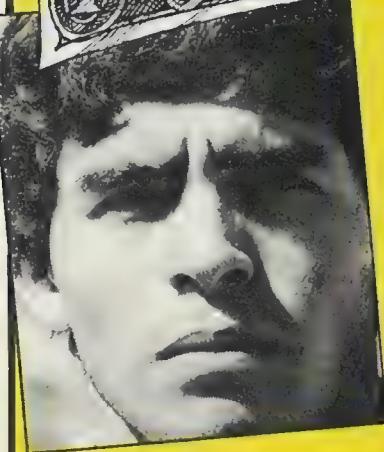
TOP RIGHT . . . Soaking up the sun of the Argentine summer before the season begins — Diego and his family on holiday.

LEFT . . . The entire Maradona family, together for Christmas.

CENTRE, RIGHT . . . A superstar always likes to look his best and Diego makes sure those famous curls are kept well-groomed.

RIGHT . . . Reading a book, yoga-style, to pass the time away.

How one Argentine cartoonist saw the transfer.



Millionaire Maradona cried when he was transferred

If you like tales of rags-to-riches, you won't find many better than the story of Diego Maradona, the fifth of eight children in a mill-worker's household who's now a millionaire at the age of 20, after less than five years in professional football. Maradona's move from Argentinos Juniors to Boca Juniors on a year's loan for an incredible £2m has hit the headlines all over the world. And if Boca want to retain Diego after next year's World Cup Finals in Spain they must fork out another £2m, establishing in the process a new world record transfer involving six players and £4m in cash.

ADD up all the other close-season signings in Argentina, and they barely reach half the value placed on 20-year-old Maradona. Add up all the newspaper headlines, and they dwarf all the important political events of recent months.

Think of the Argentinos Juniors fans who tried to burn down the stadium when they discovered he was leaving. Imagine the atmosphere as a capacity 70,000 crowd packed into Boca's Bombonera stadium to see him score twice on his League debut against Talleres. And try to imagine the scenes outside, as 20,000 were locked out.

And, perhaps most important of all, think of Diego Maradona.

Humble

For just five years ago, all this would have been totally unthinkable for the stocky 15-year-old playing in the youth teams at Argentinos and who'd lived his childhood in the humble surroundings of Villa Fiorito — a corrugated-iron suburb of Buenos Aires.

In just four-and-a-half year, he's gone from a fee of a few hundred pesos per game to an annual contract that guarantees him £335,000 basic pay; plus bonuses (£300 per point if Boca are in the top two); plus 25 per cent of takings in exhibition matches. All tax free. Plus lucrative contracts with Puma, with Coca Cola and with an Argentine airline.

The club's new president, Martin Noel, justifies the controversial spending of money they haven't

got by explaining: "Boca's economic salvation lies simply in being able to fill our stadium every week. With Maradona in our line-up we'll be able to do this, so our income will increase significantly and justify our high level of investment."



Maradona and Renazzo at half-time during Diego's farewell match for Argentinos. Renazzo is one of the Boca players who went to Argentinos as part of the deal.

Diego signed the papers, pocketed his £166,000 share of the deal, and said goodbye to Argentinos in an emotion-filled exhibition match when he played the first half in his old red shirt before donning Boca's blue and gold for the second half.

"I felt something tear, deep inside me," admitted Diego, "when I pulled off my Argentinos shirt for the last time. A thousand memories just flooded into my

mind, and I couldn't help crying. After all, I'd been with the club since I was ten. I'm going to keep that Argentinos shirt to pass on to my children . . ."

Boca manager Silvio Marzolini went on record as saying: "I feel as though I've won the pools. Yet I can't sleep at night. I know that if I fail to win titles with people like Diego, Brindisi and Trobbiani in my side, I'll just have to retire from football. If I can't work with this team, I'll never do any good anywhere."

And Argentina's national team manager César Luis Menotti had warned: "This will make Diego grow up. At Argentinos, finishing fourth in the table was a triumph. Now he'll have to learn to cope with all the pressures of being expected to win the League."

"You could say that his career is beginning now, just as Pele's career started in '59 when Santos began their international tours.

"And I can't help thinking about Rene Houseman — he was getting just the same sort of publicity as Maradona back in 1973. And in

1974 Houseman started to go downhill. Maradona is at a crossroads, and he must decide if he's going to try and be a truly great player or simply remain a very good player . . ."

Days later, Diego stepped out on to the pitch for his debut.

"I don't know whether my legs were trembling or whether there was an earth tremor! I was as nervous as when I made my first team debut for Argentinos in '76. What's more, I pulled a muscle in training, and I had to have an injection before the match. I felt OK once I'd touched the ball, and I didn't do too badly . . ."

In fact, Diego scored twice from the penalty-spot in Boca's 4-1 win, and set up the other two goals

for Brindisi.

And the Boca treasurer was gleefully claiming that the club's investment looked like paying off — so much so that Boca hurriedly took out an insurance policy guaranteeing the club £3m if Maradona suffers any permanent disability and £1,200 per week if he sustains any serious injury.

At 20, Diego Maradona is a millionaire. His old club Argentinos Juniors have cashed in on Maradona and are modernising their stadium thanks to his supreme talents.

Boca Juniors are pinning their hopes on him to drag the club out of its deep crisis.

Triumph

Menotti is counting on him to lead Argentina to a repeat World Cup triumph next year.

And Barcelona are still determined to snatch him from Boca at any price after the World Cup Finals.

In the comparative calm at the centre of this hurricane stand the supreme talents of the world's first £4,000,000 footballer.

His friend and agent Jorge Cyterszpiler insists: "I handle all Diego's business interests, just as I handled all the negotiations between Argentinos and Boca. Diego's job is just to play football."

Let's hope that he'll continue to do just that.

Diego Maradona's Scoring Record with Argentinos

| | Matches | Goals |
|------|---------|-------|
| 1976 | 11 | 2 |
| 1977 | 49 | 19 |
| 1978 | 35 | 26 |
| 1979 | 26 | 26 |
| 1980 | 41 | 43 |

"I'll never be able to play a game against Argentinos. I just couldn't bring myself to play against so many good friends." (Diego Maradona, explaining a clause in his contract which excludes him from Boca-Argentinos games)

"River Plate offered him a contract guaranteeing him the same money as me, and he turned it down. He did right to refuse. I don't think I'm worth the same money as Maradona." (River Plate and Argentina goalkeeper Pato Fillo)

"He won't make any difference at Boca. It's always been a great club and they've always given us hard games. We'll still beat them a couple of times a year." (River Plate superstar Beto Alonso)

"The money means we can pay the players their back wages, clear all our debts, modernise our facilities and build a solid future for the club." (Argentinos Juniors president Prospero Consoli)

"Maradona will be wearing our colours in 1982." (Barcelona vice-president Nicolau Casaus)

"With Diego up front and me between the posts, the fans are going to go mad at some of the shows they're going to see." (Boca's 'madman' goalkeeper Hugo Getti)

ROTHERHAM United's Tony Towner is fast becoming a member of a once exciting but now disappearing breed.

The orthodox winger — never straying more than a foot from the touchline, never crossing until he sees the white of a defender's eye — was once an essential ingredient of English soccer.

But now the number of touchline terrors running the white chalk line hardly numbers the figure on a right-winger's shirt.

Along with the dashing centre-forward and the tower block centre-half, these classic individuals have faded into the greyness of the soccer archives.

But not Tony Towner, Rotherham's wizard on the wing for the past two seasons.

"I don't know another player in the Football League who plays like me. I have always played as a winger should and I love it," he said.

"I'm only glad my boss, Ian Porterfield, lets me play as I do — I think he bought me mainly for my style."

Tiny Tony, five and a half feet tall with electric pace and the ability to tie a left-back in knots, spent eight years at Brighton and two years at Millwall before trekking north to

TINY TERRORS

Greaves when I went to Tottenham."

Indeed, from the terraces he has a cheeky style and possesses the skill to turn any defender.

"Sometimes I can get defenders very annoyed, that is when it gets physical. I get kicked around quite a lot at times," he explained. "I don't really mind so much, as long as they don't get vicious."

"My ambition is to play in the First Division, whether it is with Rotherham or a big name side."

Worse

So far he has had no approaches, but managers could do worse than watch Towner in action.

"Rotherham have come good recently. Other teams are chasing us and if we could keep it up we could be in Division Two next season," he said.

Tony never had the chance to hit the big time in international youth games as a youngster because he

THINK of top quality midfield players in the Second Division and names like Trevor Brooking, Alan Devonshire, Tony Currie and Tony Greathouse immediately spring to mind.

Yet little Cambridge United believe they have one to match any of that outstanding crop of players in dynamic skipper Steve Spriggs.

Spriggs — the smallest player in the Football League at only 5' 4" — has played a leading part in Cambridge's surge from Fourth to Second Divisions, and many good judges claim he would not be out of place in the First.

West Bromwich Albion boss Ron Atkinson — the man who signed Spriggs for Cambridge — has absolutely no doubts about the 24-year-old midfield man's ability to make it at the highest level.

"A great little player. A tremendous enthusiasm and appetite for the game. A steely competitive edge — and a lot of ability as well.

What more could you ask for," says Atkinson of the player given a free transfer by Huddersfield five years ago.

"He wrote to me at Cambridge for a trial after Huddersfield had cancelled his contract and I invited him down for a couple of games.

"He played once in the reserves — not doing particularly well — then in a first team friendly, before going off to the South of France for a long summer break.

"During that time I tried hard to sign Chris Balderstone from Carlisle to add some experience to my team. But he decided to go elsewhere, leaving me with a problem.

"Then, out of the blue, Spriggs came back to England and rang me to see if I wanted him. I told him to get down to Cambridge as quickly as he could and he has never looked back since.

"No matter what Cambridge do in the future, no matter who they attract to their smashing club, they will NEVER make a better signing."

And current boss John Doherty — the man who has carried on the high standards set for Cambridge by Atkinson — knows he is in

Tony Towner

Yorkshire.

He has seen many changes since his apprenticeship with the South Coast side.

"Football is a midfield jungle now — there are no wingers anymore. This is what soccer needs to bring it out of the doldrums — some excitement.

"I picked up my style on my own — there was no inspiration, but I used to love watching Jimmy

was told he was too small.

But size is no handicap to the 26-year-old cockney.

"As I said, I'd like to go places with Rotherham and stay with them, I like the club and the area and so does my wife.

"I'll just see what comes my way."



Steve Spriggs

possession of a gem in Spriggs.

"You look for three qualities in a footballer — loyalty, honesty and ability. Few have all three — but Spriggs has and it's a joy to have him around the place.

"Every club has players who are real pillars of strength. And Steve Spriggs is one of those.

"He has been an important factor in our climb from the Fourth to Second Division. And every time we have moved up a grade he has taken to his new surroundings like a duck to water.

Responsibility

"Steve has been skipper of the side this season. And you don't give that sort of responsibility to a player if you don't think he can handle it.

"He leads by example and has run a million miles for his club since he has been here.

"You can always rely on him to get at least ten goals a season — he is our leading scorer this term.

"A lot of people got in touch with me after the game at West Ham — where we lost 4-2 — to tell me how impressed they were with his performance.

"He was unanimously voted the best player on the field — and there can be no bigger testimony to his ability when you consider the company he was in.

"I know every manager praises his own players whenever possible. But, without any hint of bias, I can honestly say that if there is a better midfield player in the Second Division I have not seen him."



LINE-UPS...RESULTS...SCORERS...

Monday, March 2

First Division

| | |
|--|--------|
| NOTMM FOREST (0) 1 (Burns) | 19,690 |
| MIDDLESBROUGH (0) 0 | |
| Notm. Forest: Shilton, Anderson, Gray (F), Gray (S), Burns, Gunn, Mill (Pontal), Wallace, Francis, Walsh, Roberts. | |
| Middlesbrough: Platt, Crags, Bailey, Hadley, Angus, Nuttress, Blackburn, Proctor, Shearer, Janikovic, Armstrong. | |

Fourth Division

| | |
|---|-------|
| PORT VALE (2) 2 (Miller, Chamberlain) | |
| SCUNTHORPE (0) 2 (Partridge pen, Cammack) | 2,277 |
| TRANMERE 0 | |
| LINCOLN 0 | 1,538 |

Wednesday, March 4

European Cup

| | |
|---|--------|
| (Quarter-Final, first leg) | |
| LIVERPOOL (2) 5 (Souness 3, Lee, McDermott) | |
| CSKA SOFIA (0) 1 (Yonchev) | 37,255 |
| Liverpool: Clemence, Neal, Kennedy (A), Thompson (Irwin), Kennedy (R), Hansen, Dalglish, Lee, Heighway, McDermott, Souness. | |
| CSKA: Velinov, Zafirov, Jilev (Dimitrov), Vesilev, Rangelov, Zdravkov, Yonchev, Kerimov (Vukov), Djevosov, Markov, Velkov. | |

European Cup-Winners' Cup

| | |
|--|--------|
| (Quarter-Final, first leg) | |
| CARL ZEISS JENA (1) 2 (Raab 2) | |
| NEWPORT (1) 2 (Tynan 2) | 30,000 |
| Carl Zeiss Jena: Grapenthin, Brauer, Schnupphase, Krause, Lindemann, Trocha, Schilling, Sengewald (Hoppe), Kurbjuweit, Reab, Vogel (Bielav). | |

Newport: Plumley, Walden, Relish, Davies, Oakes, Tynan, Vaughan, Lowndes, Gwyther, Elsey, Moore.

WEST HAM (0) 1 (Cross)
DYNAMO TBILISI (2) 4 (Chivadze, Gutasev, Shengelia) 34,957
West Ham: Parkes, Stewart, Lampard, Bonds, Martin, Devonshire (Allen), Neighbour, Goddard, Cross, Brookings, Pike.
Tbilisi: Gabelia, Khisanishvili, Chivadze, Khinchagashvili, Tavadze, Daraselia, Svanadze, Sulakvelidze, Gubashev, Kipiani, Shengelia.

Second Division

| | |
|---|-------|
| CARDIFF 0 | |
| SHEFFIELD WED 0 | 7,002 |
| Cardiff: Grober, Jones, Gilbert, Grapes, Pontin, Thomas, Lewis, Kitchen, Stevens, Ronson, Buchanan. | |
| Sheff. Wed: Bolder, Williams, Grant, Smith, Shirliff, Sterland, Mirocevic, Taylor, Leman, McCulloch, King (Curran). | |

West Ham's controversial goal in the 4-1 European Cup-Winners' Cup defeat by Dynamo Tbilisi. Keeper Gabelia clutches a header from David Cross, but the ball was judged to be over the line.



U.E.F.A. CUP

(Quarter-Final, first leg)

| | |
|--|--------|
| ST. ETIENNE (1) 1 (Rep) | |
| IPSWICH (1) 4 (Mariner 2, Muhren, Wark) | 40,000 |
| St. Etienne: Castaneda, Battiston, Zanon, Gardon, Lopez, Janvion, Rep, Larios, Roussey (Zimako), Platini, Paganelli. | |
| Ipswich: Cooper, Mills, Butcher, Thijssen, Osman, Beattie, Wark, Muhren, Mariner, Brazil, Gates. | |

Third Division

| | |
|-------------|-------|
| BLACKPOOL 0 | |
| MILLWALL 0 | 4,534 |

Fourth Division

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| BRADFORD (1) 2 (Gallagher, Jackson) | |
| SOUTHEND (0) 1 (Gray) | 2,369 |
| PETERBOROUGH (0) 1 (Cooke) | |
| WIMBLEDON (0) 1 (Cork) | 3,201 |

Scottish Premier

| | |
|---|-------|
| ST. MIRREN (1) 2 (Richardson, Stark) | |
| AIRDRIE (0) 1 (Flood) | 3,469 |
| St. Mirren: Thomson, Beckett, McCormick, Richardson, Fulton, Copland, McDougall, Stark, Somer, Abercrombie, Weir. | |
| Airdrie: Gardiner, Erwin, Rodger, Walker (McClymont), March, McCluskey, Flood, Clark, Anderson, Gordon, Ross, McMahon, Eastoe, Varadi, Hartford, O'Keefe. | |

Scottish First

| | |
|-----------------------|-------|
| DUNFERMLINE (0) 0 | |
| FALKIRK (1) 1 (Smith) | 1,500 |
| HAMILTON 0 | |
| AYR 0 | 1,000 |

Scottish Second

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| ALLOA (0) 1 (Clark (og)) | |
| QoS (2) 3 (Robertson 3) | 500 |
| ARBOATH (0) 0 | |
| COWDENBEATH (1) 1 (Duncan) | 600 |
| CLYDE (0) 1 (Miller) | |
| QUEEN'S PARK (0) 1 (McFarlane) | 500 |

Friday, March 6

Second Division

| | |
|--|--------|
| SWANSEA (1) 3 (McNeil (og), James (L) pen, Stevenson) | |
| WREXHAM (1) 1 (McNeil) | 12,103 |
| Swansea: Stewart, Evans, Hadzibabic, Lewis, Charles, Stevenson, Craig, James (R), Curtis (Robinson), James (L), Mahoney. | |
| Wrexham: Davies, Dowman, Dwyer, Jones, Cegielski, Carrodus, Fox, Sutton, Vinter, McNeil, Cartwright (Hill). | |

Fourth Division

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| SCUNTHORPE (0) 1 (Partridge pen) | |
| BOURNEMOUTH (1) 1 (Mooney) | 2,393 |
| STOCKPORT (1) 1 (Sunley) | |
| NORTHAMPTON (1) 2 (Phillips, Cooke) | 1,945 |



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LINE-UPS...RESULTS...

Saturday, March 7

F.A. Cup

(Sixth Round)

EVERTON (1) 2 (Eastoe, Ross pen) 52,791
Everton: McDonagh, Gidman, Ratcliffe, Wright, Lyons, Ross, McMahon, Eastoe, Varadi, Hartford, O'Keefe (Stanley).
Man. City: Corrigan, Ranson, McDonald, Reid, Power, Caton, Tusaar, Gow, Mackenzie, Hutchison, Reeves.

MIDDLESBROUGH (1) 1 (Cochrane) 36,382
WOLVES (1) 1 (Gray) 36,382
Middlesbrough: Platt, Nattress, Bailey, Johnston, Ascroft, McAndrew, Cochrane, Proctor, Hodgson, Jankovic (Shearer), Armstrong.
Wolves: Bradshaw, Palmer, Perkin, Clarke (Bell), McAlle, Berry, Hibbitt, Carr, Gray, Richards, Eves.

NOTTM. FOREST (2) 3 (Francis, Walsh, Robertson pen) 34,798
IPSWICH (2) 3 (Mariner, Anderson (og), Thijssen) 34,798
Notm. Forest: Shilton, Anderson (Pont), Gray (F), Gray (S), Burns, Gunn, Mills, Wallace, Francis, Walsh, Robertson.
Ipswich: Cooper, Mills, McCall (O'Callaghan), Thijssen, Osman, Butcher, Wark, Muhran, Mariner, Brazil, Gates.

TOTTENHAM (0) 2 (Roberts, Miller) 40,629
EXETER (0) 0 40,629
Tottenham: Daines, Hughton, Miller, Roberts, Mazzon, Perryman, Ardiles, Archibald, Galvin, Hoddle, Crooks.
Exeter: Bond, Rogers (M), Sparrow, Forbes, Roberts (L), Roberts (P), Pearson, Rogers (P), Kellow, Delfe, Hatch.

First Division
BRIGHTON (2) 4 (Robinson 2, Stille, Smith) 14,063
COVENTRY (1) 1 (Bannister) 14,063
Brighton: Digweed, Williams, Stevens, Horton, Foster, Lawrenson, McNab, Stille, Robinson, Smith, Vessey (Ryan).
Coventry: Sealey, Thomas, Roberts, Blair, Dyson, Gillespie, Bodak, Daly, Thompson, English, Bannister.

LEICESTER (1) 1 (Williams) 20,198
ARSENAL (0) 0 20,198
Leicester: Wallington, Williams, Friar, Peake, May, O'Neill, Burns, Melrose (Ramsey), Young, Wilson, MacDonald.
Arsenal: Jennings, Devine, Sansom, Talbot, O'Leary, Young, Hollins (Price), Sunderland, Stapleton, Gattting, Rix.

SOUTHAMPTON (1) 1 (Keegan) 22,698
MANCHESTER UTD (0) 0 22,698
Southampton: Wells, Goiac, Holmes, Bell, Watson, Nicholl, Keegan, Channon, George, Moran, Baker. Men. Utd: Bailey, Nicholl, Alston, Wilkins, Moran, Buchan, Coppell, Birtles, Jordan, Macari, McIlroy.



Southampton's Charlie George heads just wide of the Manchester United goal.

SUNDERLAND (0) 1 (Hinnigan) 27,278
ASTON VILLA (2) 2 (Evans, Mortimer) 27,278
Sunderland: Siddall, Hinnigan, Bolton, Hindmarch, Elliott, Rowell, Arnott, Bowyer (Cooke), Ritchie, Chisholm, Cummins.
Aston Villa: Rimmer, Swain, Williams, Evans, McNaught (Gibson), Mortimer, Bremner, Shaw, Withe, Cowans, Morley.

WBA (0) 1 (Robson) 15,599
CRYSTAL PALACE (0) 0 15,599
WBA: Godden, Basson (Mills), Statham, Moses, Wile, Bennett, Robson, Brown, Deehan, Owen, Barnes.
Crystal Palace: Barron, Hinshelwood, Banfield, Nicholas, Boyle, Gilbert, Lovell, Brooks, Walsh, Sealy, Hilaire.

Second Division

CAMBRIDGE (0) 1 (O'Neill) 4,060
BRISTOL ROVERS (1) 3 (Randall, Williams (D), Penny) 4,060
Cambridge: Key, Donaldson, Murray, Smith, Fallon, Finney, Streete, Spriggs, Lyons, O'Neill, Gibbins.
Bristol Rovers: McAllister, Jones, Cooper, Williams (G), McCaffrey, Hughes, Emmanuel, Penny, Mabbett, Randall, Williams (D).

CHELSEA (1) 2 (Walker, Mayes) 12,948
BOLTON (0) 0 12,948
Chelsea: Borota, Locke, Rose, Bumstead, Droy, Chivers, Britton (Driver), Fillary, Mayes, Walker, Rhoades-Brown.
Bolton: Poole, Graham (Hoggen), McElhinney, Cantello, Walsh, Brennan, Nikolic, Whatmore, Reid, Kidd, Gowling.

NOTTS COUNTY (0) 0 8,075
LUTON (1) 1 (Stein) 8,075
Notts County: Avramovic, Benjamin, O'Brien, Kelly, Kilcline, Richards, McCulloch, Masson, Christie (Harkouk), Hunt, Hooks.
Luton: Findlay, Stephens, Donaghy, Greash, Saxy, Price, Hill, Stein, White, Antic, Moss.

PRESTON (3) 3 (Taylor (T) (og), Doyle, McGee) 5,448
ORIENT (0) 0 5,448
Preston: Litchfield, Westwell, Bell, Burns, Baxter, Anderson, Doyle, Coleman, Bruce, McGee, Naughton. Orient: Day, Fisher, Roffey, Taylor (T), Gray, Margerison (Mayo), Chiedozie, Moores, Jennings, Bowles, Taylor (P).

QPR (0) 1 (Francis) 9,513
BLACKBURN (0) 1 (Speight) 9,513
QPR: Burridge, Shanks, Gillard, Fenwick, Wicks, Roeder, Flanagan, Francis, Stainrod, Currie (Langley), Silkman.
Blackburn: Arnold, Branagan, Rathbone, Kendall, Keeley, Fazackerley, Brotherton, Burke, Lowsey, Busby, Speight.

SHEFFIELD WED 0 28,301
DERBY 0 28,301
Sheff. Wed: Bolder, Blackhall, Grant, Smith, Shrift, Sterland, Mirocevic, Taylor, McCulloch, King, Curran. Derby: Jones, Emery (Emson), Buckley, Sheridan, McFarland, Ramage, Reid, Hector, Swindleshurst, Wilson, Clayton.

SHREWSBURY (0) 2 (Keay pen, King) 4,191
OLDHAM (0) 2 (Palmer, Wyld) 4,191
Shrewsbury: Wardle, King, Leonard (Dungworth), Turner, Keay, Griffin, Tong, Atkins, Bates, Biggins, Cross.
Oldham: Platt, Edwards, Blair, Futter, Clements, Hurst, Keegan, Atkinson, Wyld, Steel, Palmer.

WATFORD (2) 4 (Poskett 2, Blissett, Pritchett) 10,014
CARDIFF (1) 2 (Kitchen, Jones) 10,014
Watford: Sherwood, Rice, Pritchett, Taylor, Sims, Bolton, Ward, Blissett, Armstrong, Jackett, Poskett.
Cardiff: Grotier, Jones, Gilbert, Grapes, Pontin, Thomas, Lewis, Kitchen, Stevens, Ronson, Buchanan.

WEST HAM (1) 1 (Cross) 26,274
NEWCASTLE (0) 0 26,274
West Ham: Parkes, Stewart, Lampard, Bonds, Martin, Allen (Pearson), Neighbour, Goddard, Cross, Brooking, Pike.
Newcastle: Carr, Brownlie, Davies, Martin, Barton, Halliday, Shoulder, Trewick, Harford, Wharton, Waddle (Carney).
Bristol City v Grimsby postponed.

Third Division

BURNLEY (2) 3 (Holt, Dobson 2 (1 pen)) 5,465
FULHAM (0) 0 5,465
CARLISLE (1) 1 (Green) 4,485
WALSALL (0) 1 (Hart) 4,485
CHARLTON (1) 1 (Walsh) 9,371
BARNESLEY (1) 1 (Banks) 9,371
CHESTER (1) 1 (Rollings (og)) 1,810
SWINDON (0) 0 1,810
CHESTERFIELD (1) 3 (Salmons, Simpson, Birch) 6,985
PORTSMOUTH (0) 0 6,985
COLCHESTER (1) 1 (Packer) 3,644
HUDDERSFIELD (1) 2 (Robins, Lillis) 3,644
GILLINGHAM (1) 3 (White 2, Price) 2,924
BLACKPOOL (1) 1 (Ashurst) 2,924
NEWPORT (1) 1 (Tynan) 5,224
BRENTFORD (0) 1 (Crown) 5,224
OXFORD (1) 1 (Cooke) 2,934
HULL (0) 1 (Roberts (D)) 2,934
Plymouth v Sheff Utd postponed

Fourth Division

ALDERSHOT (2) 2 (Robinson, Garwood) 2,252
HARLEPOOL (0) 1 (Houchen) 2,252
BURY (0) 1 (Johnson) 2,522
PETERBOROUGH (1) 1 (Syrett) 2,487
CREWE (0) 1 (Palios) 2,487
BRADFORD (0) 0 2,487
HALIFAX (1) 2 (Graham 2) 2,008
TORQUAY (0) 1 (Fell) 2,008
LINCOLN (1) 1 (Cunningham) 8,832
DONCASTER (0) 1 (Nimmo) 8,832
MANSFIELD (0) 0 4,379
SOUTHEND (1) 1 (Gray) 4,379
PORT VALE (1) 2 (Bennett pen, Chamberlain (M)) 2,319
YORK (0) 0 2,319
WIGAN (0) 0 6,029
ROCHDALE (0) 1 (Taylor) 6,029
WIMBLEDON (0) 2 (Leslie, Hodges) 2,394
TRANMERE (0) 1 (Evans) 2,394

BIG MATCHES OF THE DAY

(Saturday, March 28th)

Ipswich v Sunderland

HAVING already beaten Sunderland 2-0 at Roker Park earlier in the season this looks like another League double for Ipswich. Indeed, Sunderland have only won once in six previous League visits to Portman Road — 2-0 in 1958-59 — their first visit to this ground.

One of Ipswich's most memorable home victories was achieved at Sunderland's expense in September, 1959 when forwards Dermot Curtis and Ted Phillips each scored a hat-trick in a 6-1 win.

Arsenal v Liverpool

In recent years the meetings of these two clubs at Highbury have generally been low-scoring affairs.

It is intriguing to note that Liverpool have currently played 17 consecutive First Division games at Highbury without being able to score a solitary first-half goal! The last time Liverpool scored in this period of the game at Highbury was way back in March, 1963, when they notched up a 2-1 interval lead with goals by Kevin Lewis and Roger Hunt only for Arsenal to fight back and earn a point.

Liverpool obviously find it hard going at Highbury with only two wins in their last 21 League visits, but one shouldn't lose sight of the fact that in this same period they have drawn 11 times.

Villa v Southampton

HAVING already won 2-1 at The Dell earlier this season Villa have a chance of completing their first League double over these particular rivals.

This is only the seventh season they have met in the League, and of the 13 games played so far Villa have won five, Southampton four, and four have been drawn.

Southampton's only win at Villa Park was in September, 1966, when centre-forward Ron Davies got the game's only goal in the second-half.

Everton v Man. Utd

THIS will be the 104th League clash between these two clubs. Everton have won 41, Manchester United 37, and 25 have been drawn.

United have only won twice in their last 22 visits to Goodison, and those wins were in consecutive seasons — 1976-77, when Gordon Hill got both their goals in a 2-1 victory, and in 1977-78, when United enjoyed that astonishing 6-2 win with Lou Macari (2), Gordon Hill, Jimmy Greenhoff, Sammy McIlroy and Trevor Ross (o.g.) making it their biggest-ever win at Goodison.

If one also mentions United's 1-1 draw at Goodison in 1975-76 then we have included the only three of United's last 11 visits in which United scored at all.

From Everton's point of view, the most memorable of this series of games was in October, 1927, when Dixie Dean, on the way to scoring 60 First Division goals that season, got all five in a 5-2 win.

Scottish Cup

(Fifth Round)

DUNDEE UNITED (4) 6 (Dodds 3, Sturrock, Kirkwood, Narey) 10,236
MOTHERWELL (1) 1 (Souter) 10,236
Dundee United: McAlpine, Holt, Hegarty, Narey, Kopel, Kirkwood, Phillip (Pettigrew), Bannon, Milne (Payne), Dodds, Sturrock.
Motherwell: Sproat, Wark, McLelland, Smith, McLeod, McLaughlin, Forbes, Souter, Cleland, (Carson), Irvine, Gagahan.

RANGERS (2) 3 (Russell, McAdam, MacDonald) 25,690
HIBERNIAN (1) 1 (McNamara) 25,690
Rangers: McCloy, Miller, Jackson, Jardine, Dawson, Russell, Bett, Redford, MacDonald, McAdam, Johnston (Cooper).
Hibernian: McArthur, Brown (Jim), McLaren, Paterson, Sneddon, Hamill (Brown, James), McNamara, Duncan, Rae, Connolly, Jamieson (Rodier).
Morton v Clydebank postponed.

Scottish Premier

ABERDEEN (2) 4 (McCall, Hamilton (og), Jarvie, Angus) 11,000
HEARTS (0) 1 (Hamill) 11,000
Aberdeen: Leighton, Kennedy, Hamilton (Rougvie), Angus, McLeish, Miller, Simpson, McCall (Hewitt), McGhee, Jarvie, Scanlon.
Hearts: Brough, Hamilton, Shields, More, Liddell (F), Hamill, Mackay (Bowman), Gibson, McShane (O'Brien), Liddell (G), Kidd.

AIRDRIE (1) 2 (Flood, Campbell (og)) 3,000
PARTICK (0) 0 3,000
Airdrie: Gardiner, Erwin, March, McCluskey, Rodger, Walker, Anderson, Gordon, Flood (Thompson), Russell (McClymont) Clark.
Partick: Rough, McKinnon (Welch), Campbell, Anderson, Whittaker, McDonald, O'Hara, Watson, Clark, Higgins, Sweeney (Lapsley).

ST MIRREN (1) 1 (McDougall) 4,203
KILMARNOCK (0) 1 (Bourke) 4,203
St Mirren: Thomson, Beckett, Fulton, Copland, McCormack, Richardson, Stark, Abercrombie, McDougall, Sonner (Logan), Weir.
Kilmarnock: McCulloch, McLean (Maxwell), Armstrong, Clarke, Cockburn, Clark (McDicken), Bryce, Mauchlen, McBride, Bourke, Hughes.

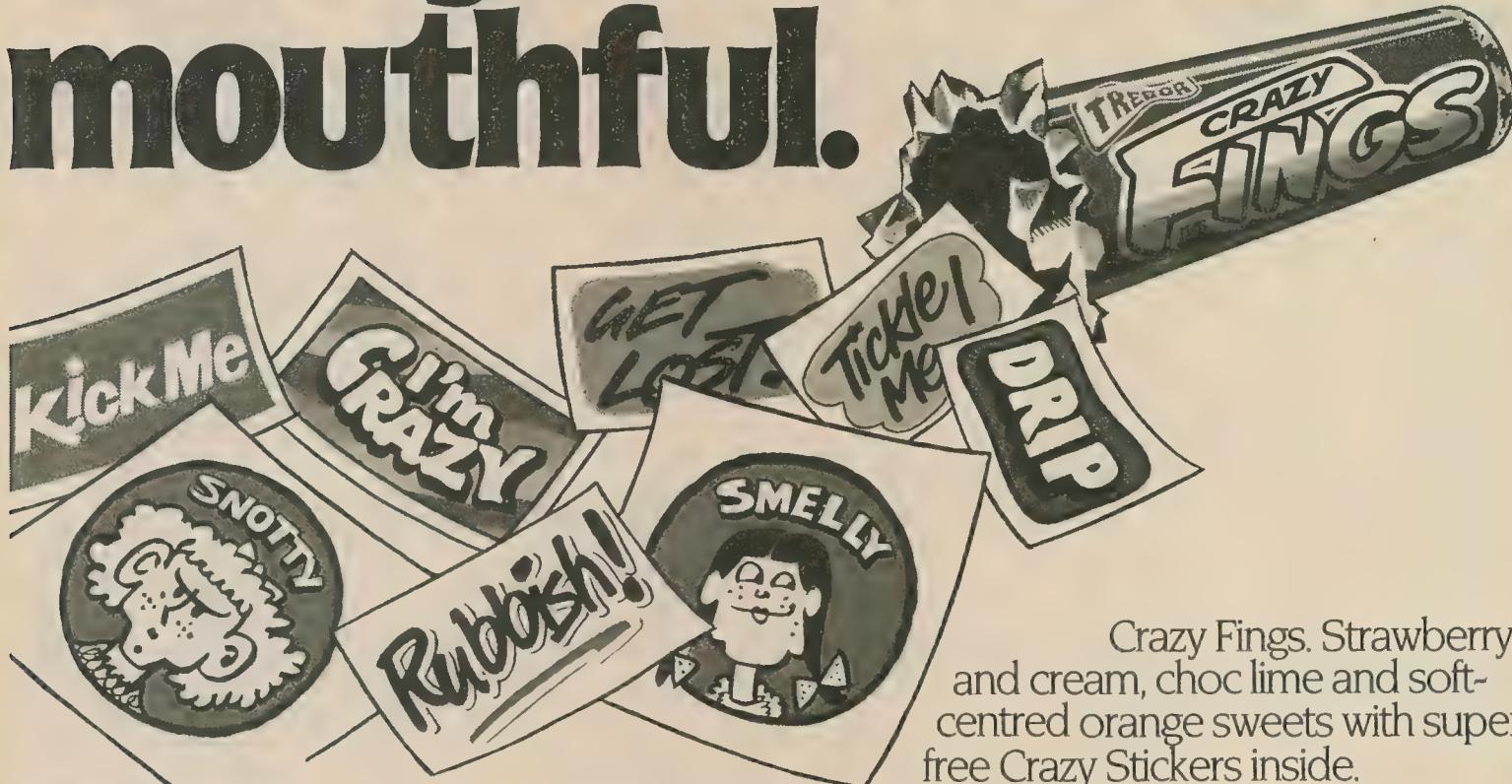
Scottish First

AYR (0) 2 (McAllister, Frye) 1,697
DUNFERMLINE (1) 1 (McNaughton) 1,697
HAMILTON (0) 0 1,000
RAITH (1) 2 (Forsyth, Miller) 1,000
ST JOHNSTONE (1) 2 (Brogan 2) 2,325
FALKIRK (1) 1 (Smith) 2,325
Stirling v Dundee postponed

Scottish Second

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| UHL 023 | Wet, Dry | Yellow 3 level foam rubber | Black PU velvet | As palm | Y.M.L | £3.95 |
| UHL 031 | Wet, Dry | White smooth foam rubber | Black grooved foam rubber | As palm | Y.M.L | £10.95 |
| SUKAN/REUSCH 119 | Dry | Black grooved foam rubber | White polyurethane | As palm | Y.S.M.L | £11.50 |
| SUKAN/REUSCH 124 | Wet, Dry | Blue smooth foam rubber | White polyurethane | Blue grooved foam rubber | Y.S.M.L | £11.95 |
| UHL 027 | Dry | Black grooved foam rubber | Silver polyurethane | As palm | Y.M.L | £12.50 |
| UHL 025 ZOFF | Wet, Dry | White smooth foam rubber | Black PU velvet | White 3 level foam rubber | Y.M.L | £12.95 |
| CLEMENCE PRO | Wet, Dry | White dimpled foam rubber | Red PU meditation | White grooved foam rubber | Y.S.M.L | £14.95 |
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SHILTON

'GUNN BACK WITH BANG'

It was at Ipswich in January that Brian Clough and Peter Taylor went into a huddle and came out declaring the time was right for a major reconstruction of their European Champions.

A 2-0 defeat had left Nottingham Forest without hope of challenging for the title, yet two months later, they have regained their position among the First Division elite.

The mid-season impetus has been provided from within the City Ground — by the emergence of youngsters Bryn Gunn, Colin Walsh, Gary Mills and Stuart Gray.

Clough and Taylor were adamant on that significant day at Portman Road that the average age of the side had to be slashed... with immediate effect.

The following week Ian Bowyer was sold to Sunderland for £250,000, Martin O'Neill was left out in what was to be the signal for his eventual departure from the City Ground and ageing central-defenders Larry Lloyd, now player-manager at Wigan, and David Needham were overlooked.

Clough quipped at the time: "We want to bring down the average age of our first team... by about 3,000 years!"

"Some of our players have been through an enormous amount over the last few years and it's beginning to tell on them. It's not possible for players to carry on indefinitely without a breath of fresh air.

"They need help in the shape of a bit of youth. Young legs and enthusiasm is something all teams need from time to time and we are no exception. This age business needs sorting out — it's a priority."

For Gunn, it was a return from the football wilderness and the

chance to establish himself in a new role as partner to Kenny Burns at the heart of the defence.

As a 16-year-old full-back, he was given an extended first team run when Clough arrived at the City Ground and some six years later, here was the chance to fulfil his potential.

Gunn responded superbly to the challenge but it was in midfield where main attention was inevitably focused as Mills, Walsh and Gray — with an average age of 19 — attempted to form an alliance of First Division quality.

Mills played in last season's European Cup Final in Madrid as Trevor Francis' replacement, of course, and was a veteran by comparison to the others.

Overtaken

But having been asked to take on the role of playing down the right-side of midfield, Mills has been overtaken in the limelight stakes by the exciting emergence of Walsh and Gray.

The slightly-built Walsh, an 18-year-old Scottish Youth international, got his senior chance on the left-wing before Christmas when the consistent John Robertson picked up a rare injury.

But his precocious skills are best suited to midfield and he's also displayed his finishing ability with four goals in his first 11 League games.

"I've never been renowned as a goalscorer but I've been delighted with the way the chances have come my way and I've accepted them," he said.

There's always been the feeling within the City Ground corridors that Walsh had the talent to make



now and the end of the season and if they are not good enough, they will have to be replaced. It sounds hard... but that's the way it has to be."

'O'Neill's transfer shock'

I'm certain that Martin O'Neill had mixed feelings about his move from Nottingham Forest to join Norwich's fight for First Division survival.

He had shared in all of our success in recent seasons and had a testimonial coming up next season but he must have viewed it as a favourable transfer otherwise he would not have agreed to it.

I think it was possibly in his mind that Brian Clough and Peter Taylor had made it known that there would be one or two changes at the club and Martin, himself, had had a disagreement with them after being left out.

And when another club showed such an enthusiastic interest in him — as Norwich did — then it's not easy to turn them down.

A lot was said at the time of the transfer that Martin had got a clause into his contract that if Norwich were relegated he would be free to move on.

Arrangement

It was a shock that he had managed to get Norwich to agree to that but player's contracts change so much these days that anything is possible. Even so, I couldn't have seen a lot of clubs agreeing to sign a player on such a short-term arrangement.

I also have a feeling that Martin's attitude might change a little after he has been at Carrow Road because he's always struck me as being an incredibly loyal player.

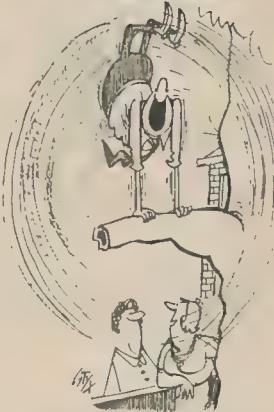
There was controversy about his transfer-listing after he had failed to turn up to travel for a match at Stoke but apart from that he's never given anything short of 100 per cent for the club.

At Forest he was more often than not played wide on the right in midfield and it wasn't really to his liking but it didn't prevent him getting on with the job.

Norwich manager Ken Brown has been quoted as saying that "He would cross that bridge when he came to it" when asked about the possibility of Martin leaving.

Somehow, I don't think they will need to cross that bridge — even if Norwich go down.

FOOTBALL FUNNIES



"It's an ill wind, boss — I sold the space to an advertising agency."



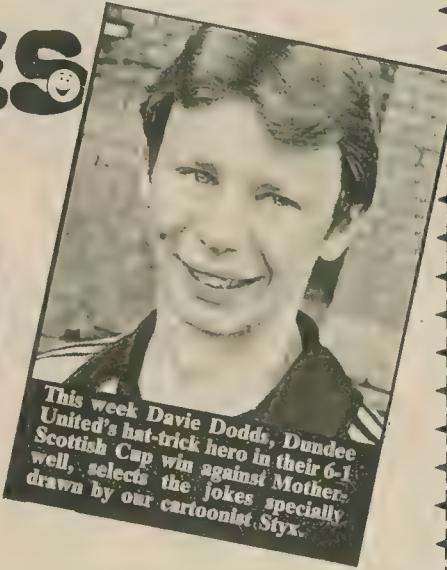
"He got the first eight draws on the coupon — wait until he hears there were another 12."



"I wish you'd remember to open the door before coming in."



"If you think that disgraceful foul is going to get you an early bath — you're wrong. Stay on and suffer."



This week Davie Doddie, Dundee United's hat-trick hero in their 6-1 Scottish Cup win against Motherwell, selects the jokes specially drawn by our cartoonist Styx.



"Before you allow that goal, ref — have a word with one of our unbiased experts."

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CLUB SPOTLIGHT

TOMMY Docherty is down on record as saying that he would only cross the road to watch three clubs.

One of them happens, surprisingly, to be Luton Town, a club buried in the heart of the Bedfordshire countryside off the M1 motorway.

The Hatters won Docherty's approval at a time when he was not renowned for passing pleasantries.

The former Queens Park Rangers manager, now working in Australia, was referring to the way Luton play football — with style and panache.

It has carried them close to promotion from the Second Division this season. Their chances of achieving First Division status have fluctuated weekly, despite the fact that they have hauled themselves into contention for the jump.

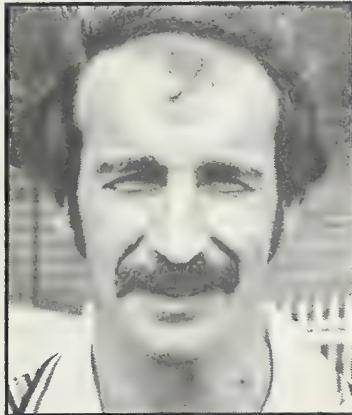
Impetus

Luton's handicap is one facing many ambitious clubs — a shortage of goals. Their manager David Pleat has said on several occasions that a regular goalscorer would give them the impetus necessary to break through.

Bob Hatton, once a Luton favourite and now leading Sheffield United's forward line, is the player Pleat misses most, the "difference between winning promotion or not".

But when the players take themselves off to Miami in May for an end of season romp, they can reflect on yet another term of progress at a club which celebrates its centenary in nine years time.

Luton's inconsistency is likely to cost them promotion. They have



Former striker Bob Hatton.

beaten West Ham twice, Sheffield Wednesday, Notts County, and Blackburn this season, yet have often failed miserably when their fans could have expected more.

It worries the club that the Kenilworth Road faithful are sometimes intolerant, criticising players heavily, and restless if the goals are in short supply.

Their unrest is simply that Luton's stylish pattern of play promises more than it sometimes supplies.

"It's not fair to blame all our supporters," explains assistant secretary Bill Butler. "They get a bit anxious at home games but when we went up to Newcastle in January we took 2,000 of them with us. And when we played Orient in that much publicised Sunday match, I would estimate there were more Luton fans at Brisbane Road than Orient followers."



David Moss has been a consistent scorer for The Hatters.

THE PLAYER LUTON MISS MOST



Manager David Pleat.

PAST HONOURS

Second Division runners-up: 1954-55, 1973-74. Third Division runners-up: 1969-70. Fourth Division Champions: 1967-68. Third Division (South) Champions: 1936-37. Runners-up: 1935-36. F.A. Cup runners-up: 1959. Last season's record: Second Division: Sixth. F.A. Cup: Third Round. League Cup: First Round.



club in the Second Division, a fact illustrated by the installation of an electronic scoreboard, one of only three of its kind in the world.

The board is capable of all kinds of electronic tricks and Luton are hoping to utilise its potential to put on "board" games for the fans' entertainment.

Another example of Luton's ambitious drive is evident in their decision to allow between 500 and 1,000 youngsters into the ground free of charge at home games.

They run the scheme in conjunction with a local evening paper and encourage participation from youth clubs, scouts and other organisations. The children watch games in a part of the ground known as a "safe" enclosure.

David Pleat sums up Luton's policy when he says: "It's no coincidence that the clubs at the top of League are inevitably footballing sides who have creative rather than destructive players."

"We must keep up our good record. This mood relays to the terraces and we can progress to our aim of becoming a club for the family to enjoy in comfort and free from intimidation and bad language."

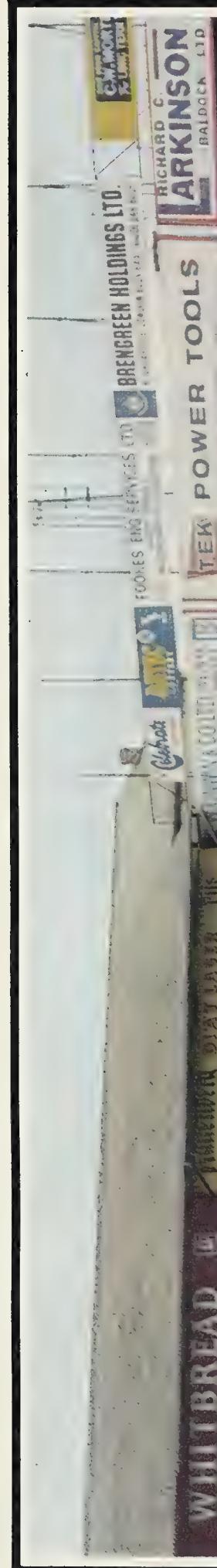
Mr Pleat knows what he wants. Who is betting against him achieving his goal?

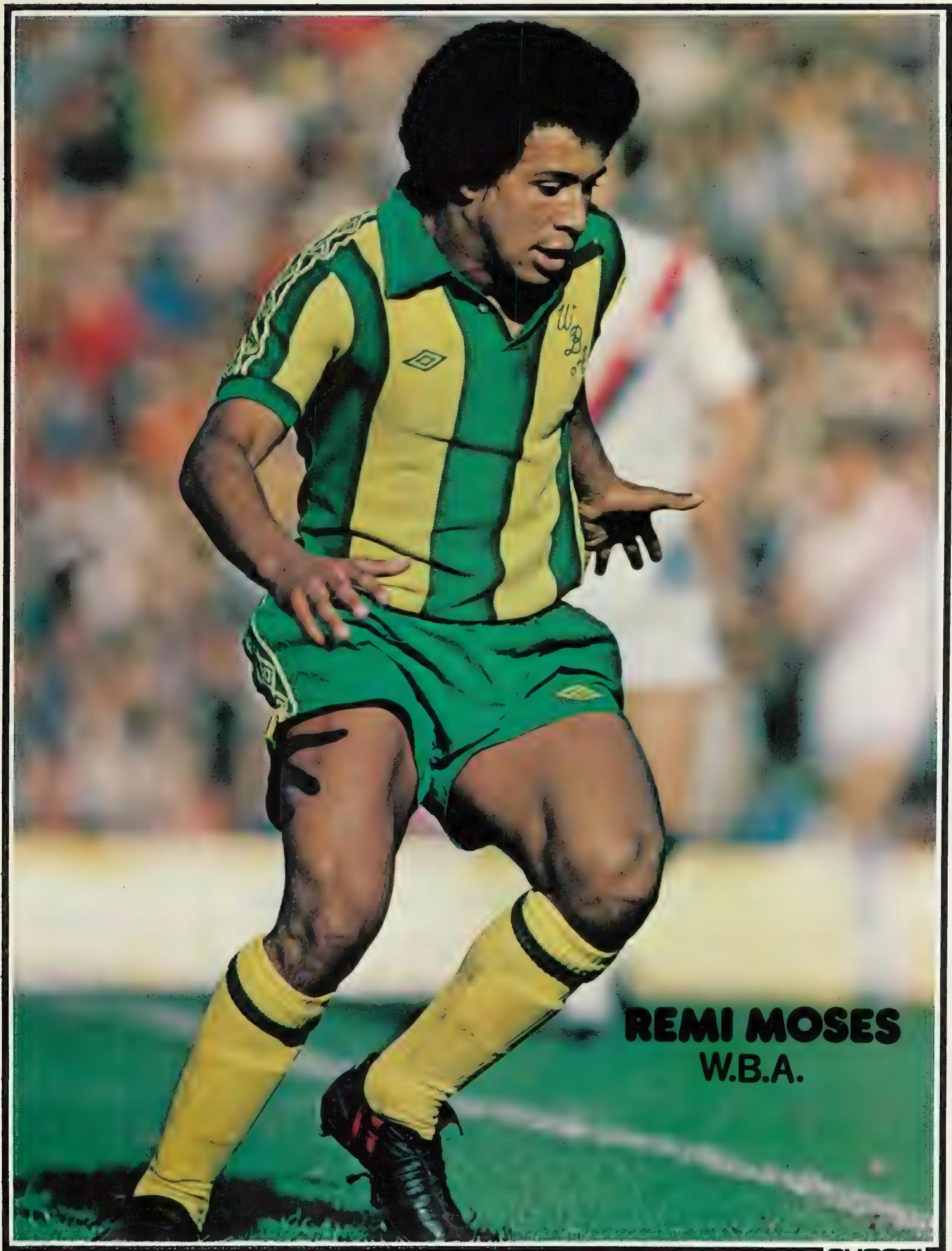
SHOOT!

BACK ROW (left to right): David Coates (coach), Kirk Stephens, Steve White, Mark Alzlewood, Jake Findlay, Mike Saxby, Raddy Antic, Alan Judge, Mal Donaghy, Godfrey Ingram, John Moore (reserve coach).
FRONT ROW: Alan West, Tony Greathouse, Brian Stein, Paul Price, David Pleat (manager), David Moss, Lili Fuccillo, Ricky Hill, John Sheridan (physio).



LUTON TOWN





REMI MOSES
W.B.A.

SPAIN'S 1982 World Cup Committee, worried by poor attendances at the European Championship Finals last year, have proposed 'very reasonable prices' for next year's tournament, and if FIFA accept their proposals tickets will be considerably cheaper than they were in Argentina in 1978.

The Spaniards want to charge between £1.65 and £4.75 for first phase matches. And tickets for the inaugural match, the second phase and the Final will range from £4.25 to £20.

Sweet move for Bill

TAMPA BAY ROWDIES have signed Billy Sweetzer, brother of the former Brentford striker Gordon, now in Toronto. Billy was spotted playing for Bracknell Town in the London Spartan League and the Rowdies scout was impressed.

After a couple of trial games 22-year-old Billy was given a three-year contract — not bad for someone who was out of work at the time.

He could find himself playing in the Rowdies' opening game of the 1981 season on March 28th. Each NASL side must field three North Americans and Billy, like his brother, was actually born in Canada.

Rowdies midfielder Perry Van Der Beck, one of their three Americans, is still recovering from a leg injury, so it could mean a swift baptism for Billy.



One of those Diaz

ARGENTINE superstar Ramón Diaz started the new season on the wrong foot by agreeing to play in a friendly match in Catamarca without permission from his club.

The local Press wrote a scathing report on his behaviour both on and off the pitch, including allegations that he punched a young autograph-hunter.

To make matters worse, Diaz was involved in a road accident; couldn't get his car repaired in time; and arrived back in Buenos Aires to start training two days late.

River Plate manager Angel Labruna wasn't amused, and the club responded by greeting Diaz with a heavy fine.



FIFA PRESIDENT UNDER FIRE IN BRAZIL

FOOTBALL is a serious business in Brazil and has prompted the Brazilian Minister for Education (also responsible for sports), Rubem Ludwig, to complain officially to FIFA against the circumstances under which Brazil found itself playing their qualifying games for the 1982 World Cup.

Brazil were drawn against Bolivia and Venezuela, both weak powers in world football. But Bolivia always play international games in La Paz, at an altitude of more than 12,000 feet high in the Andes. And in Caracas, the games are played on the grounds of a stadium owned by the University of Caracas.

The students won't allow police in the stadium, and Brazil think this affected the refereeing by the Uruguayan Ramon Barreto, who sent-off two Brazilian players in a game that Brazil eventually won 1-0.

Apart from that, the pitch is very bad, uneven, and with pipes for drainage too near the surface, the players complained that

sometimes they kicked the pipes when trying to play the ball!

There is more. Brazil also found that one of the goals is lower than the standard height.

All this was brought to the attention of the minister, who decided to send a telegram to João Havelange (right), a Brazilian and president of FIFA.

Unfair

For a long time Brazil has felt that playing at altitude is an unfair advantage for the home team, against the spirit of the rules, particularly if one considers that Bolivia, like Mexico, Colombia and Peru, has good stadiums in cities almost at sea level.

Brazil believes that countries playing the qualifying games of the World Cup should provide good pitches and adequate security for their guests.

But people in Brazil don't believe Havelange will do much about anything. Havelange and the Brazilian F.A. are at odds



right now over the right to advertise on the Brazilian team shirts and many go as far as saying that Havelange wouldn't like to see Brazil as World Champions once more.

They claim Havelange wants the privilege of having been the only Brazilian F.A. president to make the country World Champions, in 1958, 1962 and 1970, when he held the post.

GAME LASTED SIX MONTHS!

THE news that Racing Cordoba have qualified for Argentina's National Championship may not exactly warrant headlines. But the way they did it was unorthodox to say the least!

Racing and Instituto were the two teams competing for a place, and their play-off eventually had to be decided on penalties. Even here, the two sides were equal, so it was decided that each side would take three more spot kicks.

Racing converted their first, and Instituto missed theirs. At this point there was a massive riot, and the match had to be abandoned. And the funny thing is that all this happened... last August!

No one seemed able to impose a bit of calm, and the furore just dragged on and on.

Six months passed before the two teams got together again behind closed doors to take the remaining two penalties. Racing converted both of theirs, while Instituto missed theirs.

So the news that Racing have qualified may seem unimportant — but it's a story that's rocked Cordoba since last August.

'Europeans still rule-in Europe' says Beckenbauer

WEST Germany get back into World Cup action on April 1st with a tricky away game in Albania, an unlikely setting for Franz Beckenbauer to make a possible return to the national team.

Since his return from the Cosmos, there have been rumours that Beckenbauer would play for his country again, and after a few months settling in there is no doubt The Kaiser's form is as good as ever.

"Jupp Derwall said to me when I arrived in Hamburg that if I found my form and made the impact everyone expected I'd be considered. I prefer to take one step at a time. My only consideration has been acclimatising myself to the Bundesliga again."

Following West Germany's two defeats in the Copa de Oro in Uruguay, there has been a lot of pressure on Franz to lead the national side again.

"I wouldn't place too high a value on that competition," he says. "Had it been played in Europe then two European teams would have reached the Final. I'm certain a European side will

win the World Cup in Spain next year.

"Argentina and Brazil will make a strong challenge, but I don't see the South Americans overcoming the Europeans here."

"I agree there are few individual stars around. I don't know why. I believe over the past few years teams, even at youth level, have been selected on the wrong qualities... coaches look for players with stamina and good fighting spirit rather than technical skill. I'd say the technical side of the Bundesliga has suffered."

"Even so, the West German national team is as good as the ones I played in during the 60's and 70's. In Rummenigge and Hansi Muller we have two stars who hold very important roles in the side."

Could we see Franz Beckenbauer lining up against England, once more, in the World Cup Finals?

"Spain '82 is a long way off. I can't think that far ahead," was his diplomatic answer. Personally, I wouldn't be surprised to see Beckenbauer playing in his fourth World Cup Finals, a marvellous finale to his career.

HUNGARY'S 'George Best' Andras Torocsik has been punished for the road accident I reported some time ago.

The talented but wayward striker has been fined £450, and must pay just over £800 to have the other car repaired.

Torocsik explained that he'd been unable to find a taxi after a New Year party and had decided to drive home. He smashed into another car in the centre of Budapest on the way.

What's more, Torocsik had already been banned from driving for three years and had no licence, so the Ujpest Dosza star can rate himself lucky that he's been let off with only a fine.

• The Greek F.A. has introduced partial freedom of contract. In future, players who have eight years service with one club will be free to go to the club of their choice. Taking advantage of this, the captain of AEK Athens, Petros Ravoussis, has asked for £50,000 as a cash bonus to sign a new contract and if AEK won't give it to him he plans to join a club that will.

• West Germany's poor showing in the Copa de Oro has not put off German fans. Over two months before the game against Austria at Hamburg all tickets were sold.

• The Rumania F.A. have elected a new chairman, Andrei Radulescu, who is 56-years-old. Almost unique among such high standing officials, he is a former player who turned to refereeing when he hung up his boots.

• During the off-season, the Russian F.A. considered 182 transfer requests but as usual turned most of them down. They included players who play for minor clubs who moved house from one city to another because they changed their jobs. Valerle Chavaiko of Dynamo Minsk had his suspension for one year upheld by the F.A. Dynamo suspended him because he left the club after being given an apartment and a car... and the Russians claim their players are all amateurs.

BLYTH Spartans striker Les Mutrie was lying on the treatment table in Hull City's dressing room, kicking himself after the Spartans' 2-1 F.A. Cup defeat by the Yorkshire side.

When in walked his chairman who said Hull boss Mike Smith would like a word with him.

Three days later, Christmas Eve, 1980, Mutrie had signed for Third Division Hull for £30,000.

"It wasn't so much a dream come true as an opportunity to do something I knew I could," said Les.

"I know I can make a success of professional football, I was just waiting for the chance."

But it was no Christmas present for the one time building firm employee.

He and his family spent the festive fortnight in a Hull hotel waiting for the move to be settled.

It isn't the first time 28-year-old Mutrie had hit the professional soccer trail.

His first foray into the hard-man world of the toughest League in football ended painfully after a problem packed stint with Bobby Moncur's Carlisle.

"They made me play four games with a broken leg. I was screaming with pain at night and it took six X-rays to find the break... that was that, I was finished with them. I didn't want to know about Carlisle."

His soccer career began at 20 with a series of hard North-Eastern non-League battlers.

He joined Blyth two years ago and can't fault the famous giantkillers.

But his ambition has always been to get on in the professional soccer scene.

"I've always been confident I could make the grade but it was Blyth against Hull that brought me to people's attention."

It was part of the Blyth spirit that has turned him into a prolific scorer.

BLYTH SPIRIT



"From the minute I moved here I thought I would have trouble with the League pace, but I'm slowly getting fitter and faster. I'm aching in places I never knew I had, but surprisingly I'm lasting."

Les always liked life as a non-Leaguer. There was little of the aggro and hairline trigger tempers that has turned many high class League matches into scrappy brawls.

"But I'm always wary of the professional players as players—because that is what they are, professional paid full timers, it is their job, their living, so they are very good."

He doesn't regret the Hull move, because he says, obviously it would have come sooner or later.

Back-stabbing

But he isn't keen on the back-stage backstabbing that goes on amongst the professionals.

"Players aren't as amiable as they seem. There is a lot of bitchiness managers find hard to control."

He's eager to get on the scoresheet as regularly as possible, and impatient to show his worth. For he wants to take his reputation as Spartans' hotshot down to his new home club.

"Hull are at the bottom of the Division. That's not my fault, I'm going to fight like crazy to get them out of the relegation zone. The other lads' fight has gone, mine has not."

"I went to Carlisle and it didn't work, now I've been given a second bite at the cherry in the League... and this time it is going to work."

YOU ARE THE REF

Compiled by CLIVE THOMAS

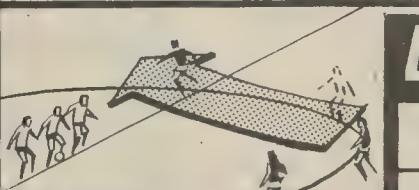
1 After the half-time interval you notice the home team have changed their boots without your permission. Should you (a) make the players change back, or (b) check the new boots all conform to the law?



2 You decide the ground is fit for play but the two team managers do not want to start the match. Should you take any notice?



3 At the kick-off, a player of the team which has scored moves into his opponents' half before the kick is taken. Should you (a) award an indirect free-kick, or (b) order the player back into his own half?



4 When a sub states his own name, you are aware he is not a registered player of that club. Can you refuse him permission to play in the match?



5 A Cup replay is again drawn after 90 minutes which means extra-time. The ground is in such a poor state you call the game off. Can you tell the away team that the next match will be at their ground?



ANSWERS

1. Check the boots conform to the law (b). 2. Yes. Although the referee decides if a game goes ahead, I do believe that both managers should be consulted. I was due to referee an important Welsh Cup game between Merthyr and Swansea but unfortunately the weather was very bad and I was therefore called in to inspect the pitch. When I arrived at the ground I asked to see Brian Jones of Merthyr and John Swanson of Swansea and I asked them if they thought the match off. Because I felt it was better for the players to play in their own half (b), No. 5. No.

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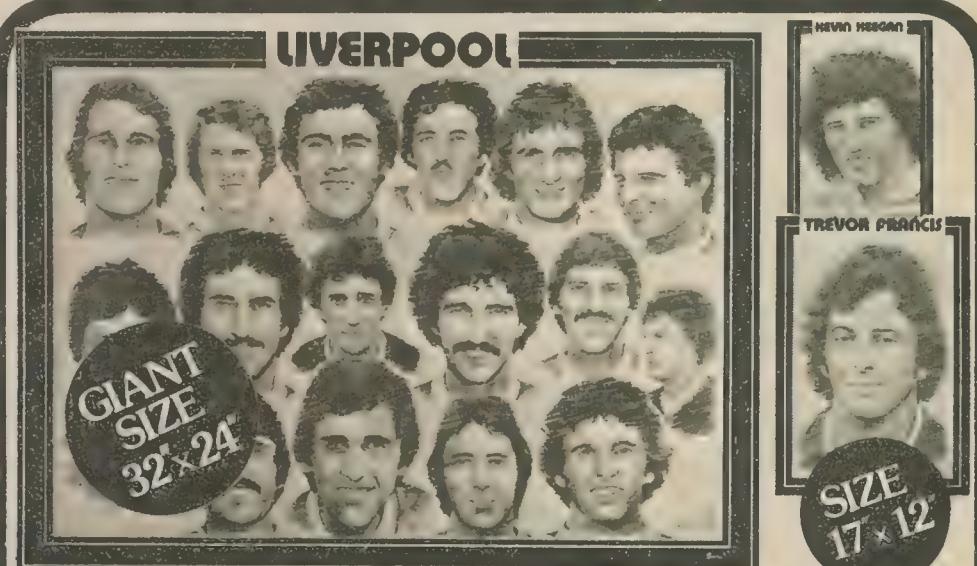
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ONE of Manchester United's problems this season has been scoring goals.

Yet there's a striker playing at Old Trafford who totalled more than 100 last season.

He's Norman Whiteside, a schoolboy who still lives in Belfast and comes over at weekends and holidays to play regularly in the youth team.

Norman is only 15, over six feet tall and weighs 11½ stone. Quite a young Goliath.

But it's his skill, not physique,

'United's hat-trick of strikers'

which has everyone at Old Trafford gasping. United coach Harry Gregg, the former Northern Ireland keeper and Old Trafford star, told me he's the most exciting prospect he's seen since George Best.

Bob Bishop, United's Northern Ireland scout, commits himself further. "Norman is definitely better than George was at that age."

Bob is a "young" 31 and spent a lifetime discovering and nursing along talent for United.

Apart from Bestie, he's responsible for bringing Eric McDermott, Jimmy Nicholson, Sammy McIlroy, Jimmy Nicholl and David McCreery to the club.

Others who were turned down despite his recommendations and went on to establish themselves in the Football League included Pat Jennings, Tommy Cassidy and Tom Finney.

Bob's a United fanatic and attends most of the games at Old Trafford. When he's not here, he can prob-

MY SOCCER WORLD
Gordon McQueen



Someone suggested he should be given an extended run, but it could be disastrous bringing him into a struggling side. His confidence might be shattered beyond repair. It has happened to many promising youngsters.

Once Scott fills out a bit he'll be a force to be reckoned with.

I predict a great future for our Scottish youth international... and 16-year-old Mark Hughes from Wrexham.

Mark completes a hat-trick of young strikers waiting for their

chances of the big-time at Old Trafford.

Like most of our apprentices, Mark stays in digs in Manchester. Some clubs prefer to house their youngsters together in hostels. United believe it's better to put their lads into ordinary homes where they mix in with the families.

As you can imagine the boys are under strict supervision and not allowed out after certain times.

If a lad breaks the rules he's sent packing immediately. There are no second chances for apprentices who step out of line and let the club down.

Overall boss of the youth squad at Old Trafford is Syd Owen, the former Luton centre-half. He was coach under Don Revie while I was at Leeds United, so I know Syd very well.

The limelight rarely falls on scouts like Bob Bishop and youth team coaches such as Syd, but their contribution to clubs are invaluable.

Without their care and dedication in spotting and grooming youngsters, clubs would die.

Manchester United are fortunate to have lads such as the three I've mentioned, and the others who have helped to take the youth team into the Semi-Final of the F.A. Youth Cup to face Spurs and the Lancashire Cup Final v Manchester City.

The future of United looks very exciting. So does this Friday's (March 27th) match at Everton.

I always enjoy playing at Goodison although it's never an easy place to get a good result.

I know United haven't been playing well lately, but Everton's form has been erratic. Difficult to predict this one. I'll settle for a draw.

Take care . . .

Scott McGarvey goes close for the Scottish Professional Youths against Ireland. The youngster has a bright future at United.



The future of FOOTBALL

THE new proposals, confirmed by the League Management Committee recently, introduced some startling new measures into English football. Three points for a win next season, the introduction of Sunday football, already with us in recent weeks, plus the decisions to try to halt the movement of managers during a season and forbid clubs to buy a player, unless they have already paid off all outstanding monies on other recent signings. The plans have led to a tremendous discussion throughout the land. So we asked some of England's leading personalities for their views.

The manager



'Three points is a winner'

RON ATKINSON (W.B.A.)



(1) Are you in favour of Sunday football?

I'M generally not in favour of this. I like the uniformity of everyone kicking off at 3pm on a Saturday, I feel it's a good habit. I believe that if they want to go into Sunday soccer, they should select certain Sundays during the season and make everyone play on those days. I'm worried at a possible situation where some matches are played on Friday night, Saturday afternoon, Sunday morning and Sunday afternoon. I think it would be a chaotic situation. There's a case for having a look at it, and maybe I would be persuaded if it was the right thing if it was a huge success.

(2) Three points for a win?

THIS is a terrific idea and will make the game very interesting. If you get a situation where two sides are drawing 1-1 with ten minutes left, the likelihood is they will go flat out for the winner. Before, the tendency was to preserve a point. But the 'carrot' of those two extra points is a colossal incentive if you're trying to win a League title, or promotion. Three points is a big reward for winning, and I'm sure it will make sides more attack-conscious. It could alter thinking right across the board.

(3) No moving of managers during the season?

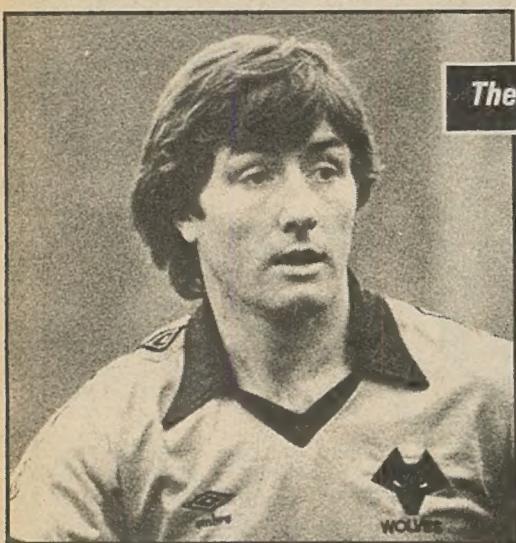
THIS rule will, without much doubt, cut down the amount of movement for managers between clubs. But I don't know whether that's such a bad thing anyway. From the managers' point of view, the real bone of contention involved in all this still hasn't been settled. The problem will remain of the manager who has been sacked, still haggling months later to get his just pay-off. That is where it should be sorted out. As regards the rule which says don't poach another club's manager — well, it remains to be seen how it works. I suppose most clubs now have coaches who can take over if the manager leaves in mid-season.

(4) No transfer buying unless other deals have been paid for?

I BELIEVE the Committee should have gone for the other suggested plan, which stipulated 50 per cent down payment on immediate completion of deal, and the rest to be paid within a short time. I think the 12 months' period they've mentioned should be three months. I'm not sure whether it will bring down the level of deals in the transfer market. If every club had to pay for every player, in full, within three months, fees would tumble.



The success of Fulham's Rugby League experiment has been encouraging.



The players

'Nothing wrong with managers changing clubs'

JOHN RICHARDS (WOLVES)

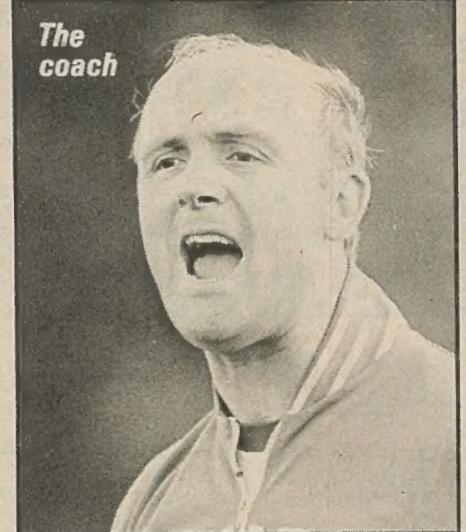
I CAN'T really see many First or Second Division clubs playing Sunday football very much, but I think it could be a boost to the lower teams. There may be plenty of real football followers who would go and watch a match on Saturday and Sunday if they had the chance. I think it's a good thing to give the idea the go-ahead although personally, I wouldn't want to play on a Sunday. Maybe players are creatures of habit, but you get used to playing on Saturdays, and don't want to change. I doubt whether it would make much difference financially to the big clubs, but with some of the smaller clubs, 1,000 extra fans on a Sunday could mean almost 50 per cent extra gate money. So good luck to them.



'Sunday soccer not for me'

PHIL PARKES (WEST HAM)

I THINK it will only work as long as the novelty lasts. After that, I don't think there will be much difference. I've got to say I wouldn't want to play football on Sunday. It's the one day of the week when we can all be together as a family. If I played on Sunday, what good would it be to me to have Monday off? My kids would be at school, so I'd never get to spend a day with them. I've been brought up with the idea that Sunday is a day you should have off. And another thing — how many families will be prepared to be split up and lose the Sunday dinner, just so that the husband can go and watch a football match? No, I'm not in favour.



The coach

'Big clubs should follow Fulham's example'

DON HOWE (ARSENAL)

THIS has to be a good idea. There is such a huge potential market for Sunday football — a great many folk work on Saturdays and cannot get the time off. There might be a slight problem of public transport, but I think more people will go by cars because there is less traffic on the roads on a Sunday. People are a little bit frightened of experimenting but unless you do, you will never learn anything. Initially, perhaps only the Third and Fourth Division clubs will play on Sundays. But I believe the big clubs will follow when you look at Sunday attendances so far. Look at the success of Fulham's Rugby League experiment on Sundays. They've had 15,000 crowds there — an astonishing total.

I'M sorry, but I believe this is a bad idea. I don't think it will make much difference and I can't see why they did it. People say it will make games more attractive, but I can't see it. I believe the points system we had was more than adequate, and if anything was going to be brought in, why didn't they go the whole way and say six points for a win? I think with this system, any side going a goal ahead will pull everyone back and sit on that lead. If they hold out, they'll get three points for a defensive bore, and that can't be right.

THIS will make teams attack more, but it's a pity they couldn't have brought in something to make the away side go for goals. If they'd said away wins were worth four points, I'm sure more sides would have gone away with a positive attitude. A lot of teams are too frightened to lose — they clam up and are very defensive. Giving an extra point for an away win could have made a big difference.

I'M very much in favour. If a team plays six matches and drew them all under the present system, they would have six points. Under the new proposals, that side could lose three of the six, but win the other three and still have three points more than if they'd gone out for a draw each time. That must make it worthwhile to play for a result every time. It's bound to have an influence on every club, and I feel that those who hesitate to go forward much more will lose out. Critics have said that a side one goal up will sit on that lead. Those who do will be punished, because one slip will now cost them two points. They'd have to go and look for another goal to ensure they got the maximum three points.

I CAN'T see the point of this one, either. It's ludicrous to me, because a great many teams have been revitalised by the arrival of a new manager midway through a season. People seem to have looked upon this as though it was an everyday occurrence — but it wasn't. I don't see much wrong with managers changing clubs. It's good for the game because it stimulates interest.

IT'S a step in the right direction, because clubs might be more inclined to have faith in a manager who is going through a bad spell if they can't get a replacement. But maybe the best solution would have been to give managers two years' security in their job, because then they would have been more inclined to play attacking football. After all, if results didn't go for them straightaway, they wouldn't be so worried as they are now. It will take a little pressure off managers who look as though they might be in trouble.

CLUBS demand that players should honour their contracts, so why shouldn't managers be forced to do the same thing? We have to stand up and be counted on this. Managers should be prepared to serve contracts if they sign them. There is nothing so disruptive to a club as to lose its manager midway through the season. The time for changing clubs, whether a manager or player is involved, should be the summer. So, I'm very much for this idea, too.

I AGREE completely with Ron Atkinson on this — they should have said 50 per cent immediate down payment, the rest to be paid off within a short period, perhaps three months. The way clubs do it at the moment, they can pay the money over donkey's years which is wrong. The new rule won't necessarily speed it up very much. Also, I reckon that if a club wants to buy four or five players within a year and can afford it, it should be allowed to do so. It's not a rule I'm in favour of.

IT'S a good idea and I'm in favour of this. I think it will help bring down transfer fees, and that's what the game badly needs in this country. Everyone has been talking in telephone numbers for transfer deals but it will be very realistic figures now. Almost every club owes money on some deal, and this is a good way of forcing clubs to face up to the financial facts of life.

SOME clubs have three or four players they are still paying for, and that cannot be right. Encouraging clubs to live on the 'never-never' is seldom a good idea, so I believe that this is a welcome innovation. It's like anything else in life — you've got to face the fact that you can't buy something if you haven't got the money. Football clubs should be aware of this as much as individuals. We must pay our bills in the game, and unless something like this is brought in, football will never face reality in a financial sense.

TAKE A BREAK—IT'S

Quiz Time

F.A. CUP

The Quarter-Finals of the F.A. Cup were played recently. Can you answer the following questions about the ties?

1. Spurs progressed to the Semi-Final when they beat Third Division Exeter City at White Hart Lane. Can you name the two players who scored their goals in the 2-0 win?

2. Ipswich Town and Nottingham Forest fought a tremendous 3-3 draw at the City Ground. After trailing 2-0, Forest hit back and in fact led 3-2 when John Robertson scored from a free-kick or penalty?

3. Who scored Ipswich Town's winner in the 1-0 replay victory against the European Champions at Portman Road?

4. After a 1-1 draw at Ayresome Park, Middlesbrough, Wolves won a Semi-Final place when they beat Boro 3-1 after extra-time. What was the score after 90 minutes?

5. Did Gerry Gow or Paul Power (below) score Manchester City's second equaliser in their 2-2 draw with Everton at Goodison Park?

PAST STARS...

See if you can identify these former Football League stars who are now managers.

1. As a player, he starred for Charlton Athletic and Wolves. He gained five England Under-23 and two full caps before taking over as player-manager of Hereford United. Returned to one of his former clubs as boss.



TRACE-A TEAM

The names of 12 past or present Bolton Wanderers players are spelt out in this frame in straight lines, either horizontally, vertically or diagonally and forwards or backwards. How many can you find?

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| A | H | E | V | I | T | A | T | E | D | C | D |
| W | O | O | L | L | E | T | N | A | C | K | M |



2. Played for Everton, Scunthorpe United, Preston, Aston Villa (where he appeared in a League Cup Final), Bristol Rovers and Newport County. He also appeared once for the Welsh Under-23 side and three times for the full side. Took over this season's giantkilling side in January, 1979.

3. From 1957-60 he played for Scottish club Morton. After moving South in 1960 he began an association with the club he is now in charge of.

4. Spent his entire League career with Fulham. As a manager he guided non-League Woking to the F.A. Trophy Semi-Finals before taking over as manager of a London Third Division club.

5. Which Scottish First Division club did Derby County's John Duncan start his career with before joining Tottenham?

6. Burnley's Martin Dobson gained three, four or five full England caps?

TRUE or FALSE?

1. Everton's Eamonn O'Keefe and Jim McDonagh both represented the Republic of Ireland for the first time in a recent friendly against Wales which resulted in a 3-1 win for the Welsh.

2. Newcastle United, Exeter City and St Johnstone play at grounds called St. James' Park. **F**

3. Leeds United full-back Kevin Hird began his League career with Blackburn Rovers before joining the Elland Road club. **T**

4. Geoff Hurst (below) is Chelsea's ninth manager since the last War.

5. Wolves' John Richards gained his one and only full England international cap against Northern Ireland at Goodison Park in the 1973 British Championship.



...AND PRESENT

1. Alan Ball (above), who recently resigned as player-manager of Third Division Blackpool and rejoined Southampton, made his second debut for the club in a First Division clash against Manchester United, Manchester City or Birmingham City at The Dell?

2. On the 27th February, Les Bradd of Stockport scored the 100th, 150th or 200th competitive goal of his career against Scunthorpe United?

3. Was John Trewick, Mick Harford or Chris Waddle recently appointed captain of Newcastle United?

ANSWERS:

1. Alan Ball (above), who recently resigned as player-manager of Third Division Blackpool and rejoined Southampton, made his second debut for the club in a First Division clash against Manchester United, Manchester City or Birmingham City at The Dell?

ACROSS:— (1) Two. (3) Hibbitt. (5) Withe. (7) Small. (11) Tommy Booth. (12) Knot. (14) Bell. (15) Elland Road. (16) Yards. (19) Dyson. (21) Melrose. (22) Top.

DOWN:— (1) Table. (2) Omits. (3) Hat. (4) Tea. (5) Wembley. (6) Hebbard. (8) Mahoney. (9) Lincoln. (10) Royle. (11) Tub. (13) Ted. (17) Rum. (18) Split. (19) Droop. (20) She.

ON THE BALL ANSWERS

No Leeds United player has fought harder than Trevor Cherry this season as manager Allan Clarke has tried to revitalise the club.

And it is generally admitted in the Elland Road camp that the 33-year-old skipper is performing as well as at any time in his career.

"How England can afford to leave him out is beyond me," says Clarke. "He's been superb, leading by example."

"I doubt whether he's fallen below even his high standards in any game since I took over in September."

"I remember playing against him years ago when he was with Huddersfield Town and I was in that fine team Don Revie built at Leeds.

"In those days — at least ten years ago — he let me know what he felt about the opposition in no uncertain terms by his nonsense tackling!

"He was tough as steel. He made you flinch. Believe me, it's good to have him on the same side in our efforts to rebuild this club."

Ironically, Cherry's transformation this season came about through an inspired move by caretaker-manager Maurice Lindley a week before Clarke returned.

Lindley, still a key backroom figure after distinguished service with United dating back to just after Revie's arrival in the late 50's, recalls: "We'd been struggling to get things right in defence."

"After Jimmy Adamson left I decided that Trevor was the man to fill the defensive gap at the side of centre-half Paul Hart.

'Terrific'

"That was against Spurs on September 13. Since then, Trevor's been terrific."

Huddersfield-born Cherry, capped 27 times by England, told SHOOT: "It was no hardship to help out in that position, because it's my favourite role in the team.

"That's the role Don Revie earmarked for me when he bought me from Huddersfield for £100,000 in 1972.

"It was always intended that I would move into that berth when Norman Hunter called it a day.

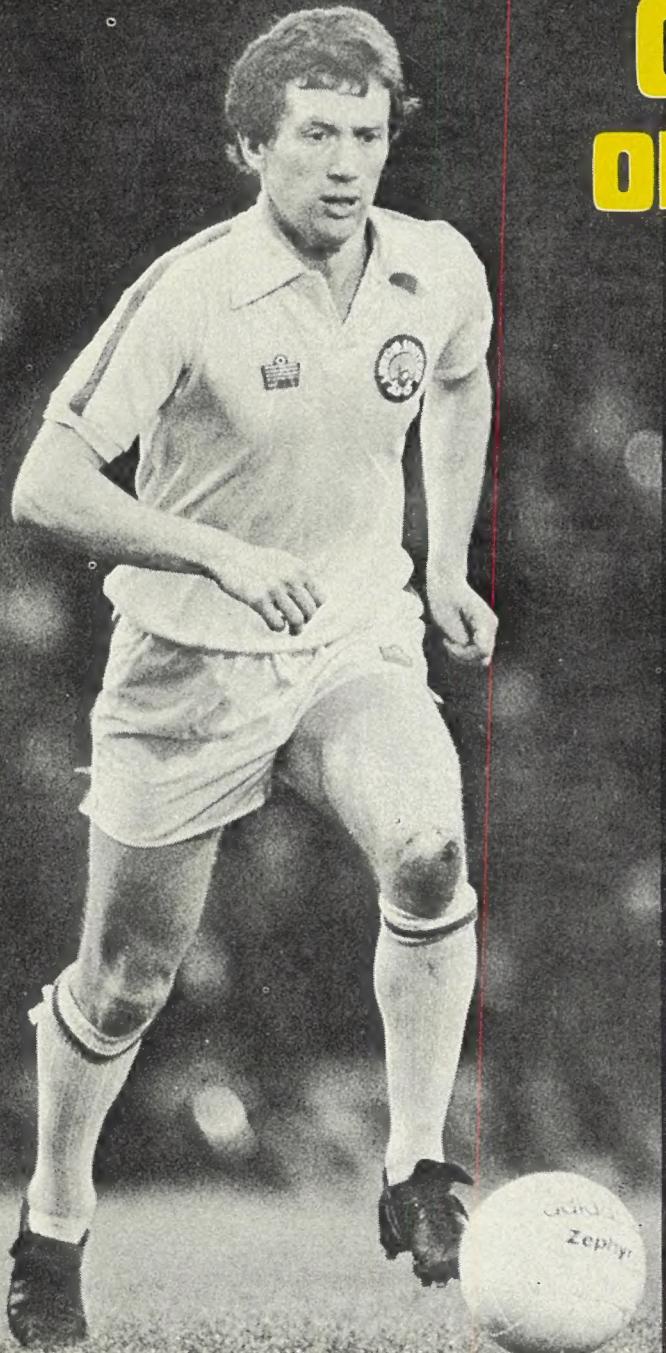
"But injuries and managerial changes meant that I never really got a chance to settle into my best position. I suppose my willingness to help out anywhere in an emergency worked against me.

"But I've no regrets. Football's a team game, and I've always felt a professional should sacrifice personal advantages for the good of his colleagues."

Cherry, a cheerful, mild-mannered character off the field, now forms one of the most effective central defensive partnerships in the country. Without their sterling work Leeds would have been in serious trouble this campaign.

Cherry's relatively slight frame (5ft. 9in., 11st) belies tremendous strength and stamina, as his manager will testify from personal experience during his playing days.

And over 300 League appearances with Leeds have proved Revie's judgment right all those



Cherry's omission baffles Clarke

years ago.

The then Leeds boss claimed that his new signing was: "Keen, determined and exceptionally good in the air."

Allan Clarke says Cherry is all those things — and more. "He's also an inspiring captain and a fine example to the youngsters at the club."

The player shrugs off the praise. "I'm only doing what I'm paid to do — to strive 100 per cent for the good of Leeds United," he says.

"I count my blessings in having been well rewarded to play this great game. I only hope I can go on for a few more years."

During his career Cherry, like every professional, has had his share of ups and downs. But he admits to only one bitter disappointment, what he calls "being on the wrong end of an injustice."

That was when Jimmy Armfield left him out of the European Cup Final team against mighty Bayern Munich in Paris in 1975.

Leeds lost that tie 2-0, and Cherry recalls: "I was badly hurt by the manager's decision to omit me. I felt I'd done well against Barcelona in Spain in the Semi-Final and in the League games which led up to the Final — then he dropped me."

"It hurt because I thought it was unfair of the boss. But I resolved that the following season I'd let him see the error of his ways. I was determined to prove he could never leave me out again. And he didn't!"

Get on the ball with next week's SHOOT...



'No crisis at Arsenal' declares John Hollins (above).

Paul Cooper — England's safest 'keeper.

How Garry Birtles has boosted Joe Jordan.

Ivan Golac — a victim of a World Cup cold war.

PLUS

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European Cups
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AND IN COLOUR

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Oldham and Ayr team groups . . .

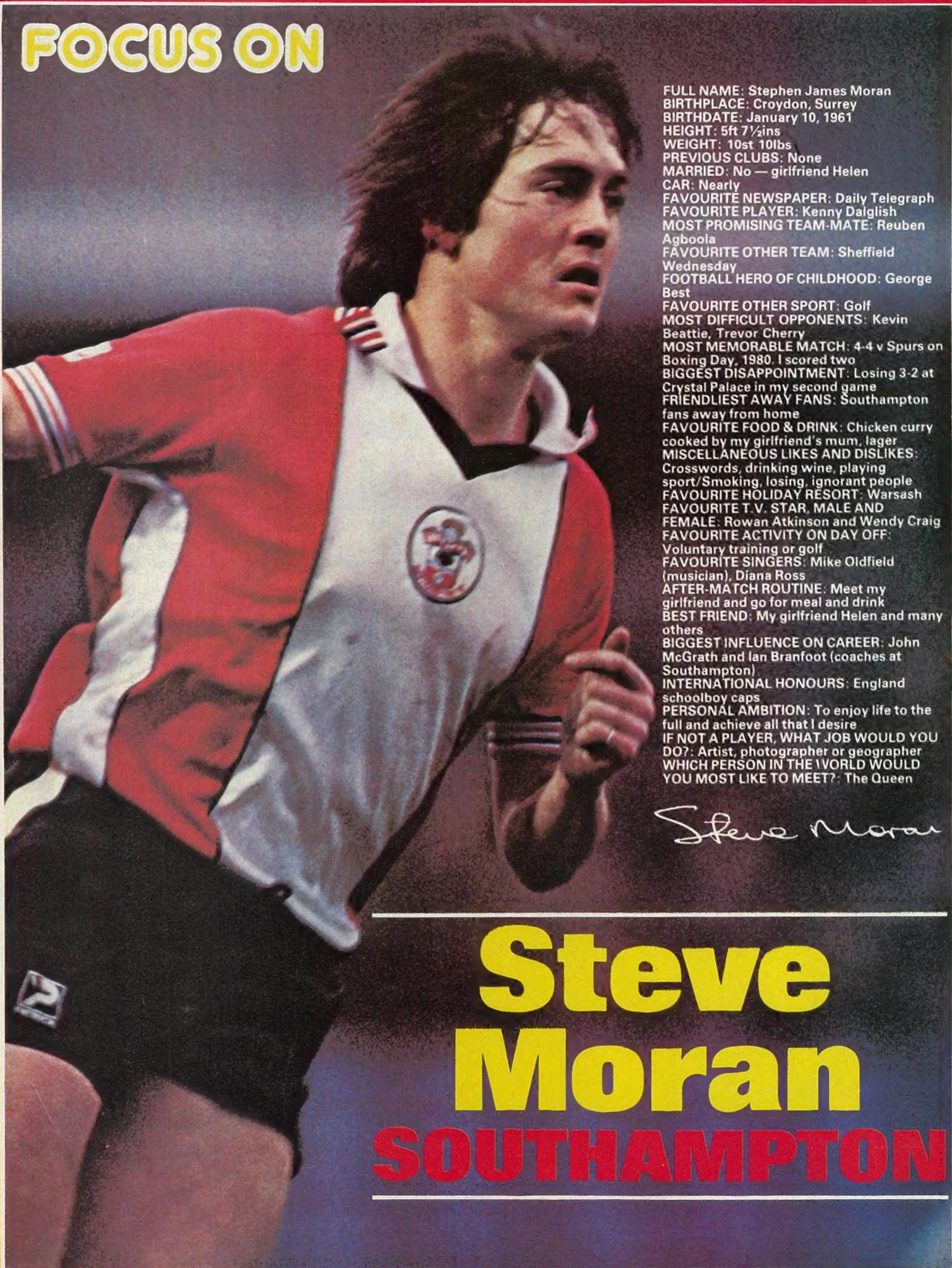
Colin Todd (Birmingham) . . .
David Armstrong (Boro) . . .
Focus on Aberdeen's Gordon Strachan.

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All this and much more in next week's SHOOT — the number one in football!

FOCUS ON



FULL NAME: Stephen James Moran
BIRTHPLACE: Croydon, Surrey
BIRTHDATE: January 10, 1961
HEIGHT: 5ft 7½ins
WEIGHT: 10st 10lbs
PREVIOUS CLUBS: None
MARRIED: No — girlfriend Helen
CAR: Nearly
FAVOURITE NEWSPAPER: Daily Telegraph
FAVOURITE PLAYER: Kenny Dalglish
MOST PROMISING TEAM-MATE: Reuben Agboola
FAVOURITE OTHER TEAM: Sheffield Wednesday
FOOTBALL HERO OF CHILDHOOD: George Best
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORT: Golf
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENTS: Kevin Beattie, Trevor Cherry
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: 4-4 v Spurs on Boxing Day, 1980. I scored two
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Losing 3-2 at Crystal Palace in my second game
FRIENDLIEST AWAY FANS: Southampton fans away from home
FAVOURITE FOOD & DRINK: Chicken curry cooked by my girlfriend's mum, lager
MISCELLANEOUS LIKES AND DISLIKES: Crosswords, drinking wine, playing sport/Smoking, losing, ignorant people
FAVOURITE HOLIDAY RESORT: Warsash
FAVOURITE T.V. STAR, MALE AND FEMALE: Rowan Atkinson and Wendy Craig
FAVOURITE ACTIVITY ON DAY OFF: Voluntary training or golf
FAVOURITE SINGERS: Mike Oldfield (musician), Diana Ross
AFTER-MATCH ROUTINE: Meet my girlfriend and go for meal and drink
BEST FRIEND: My girlfriend Helen and many others
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: John McGrath and Ian Branfoot (coaches at Southampton)
INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: England schoolboy caps
PERSONAL AMBITION: To enjoy life to the full and achieve all that I desire
IF NOT A PLAYER, WHAT JOB WOULD YOU DO?: Artist, photographer or geographer
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET?: The Queen

Steve Moran

**Steve
Moran**
SOUTHAMPTON
